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INVINCIBLE™

14



image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

TM

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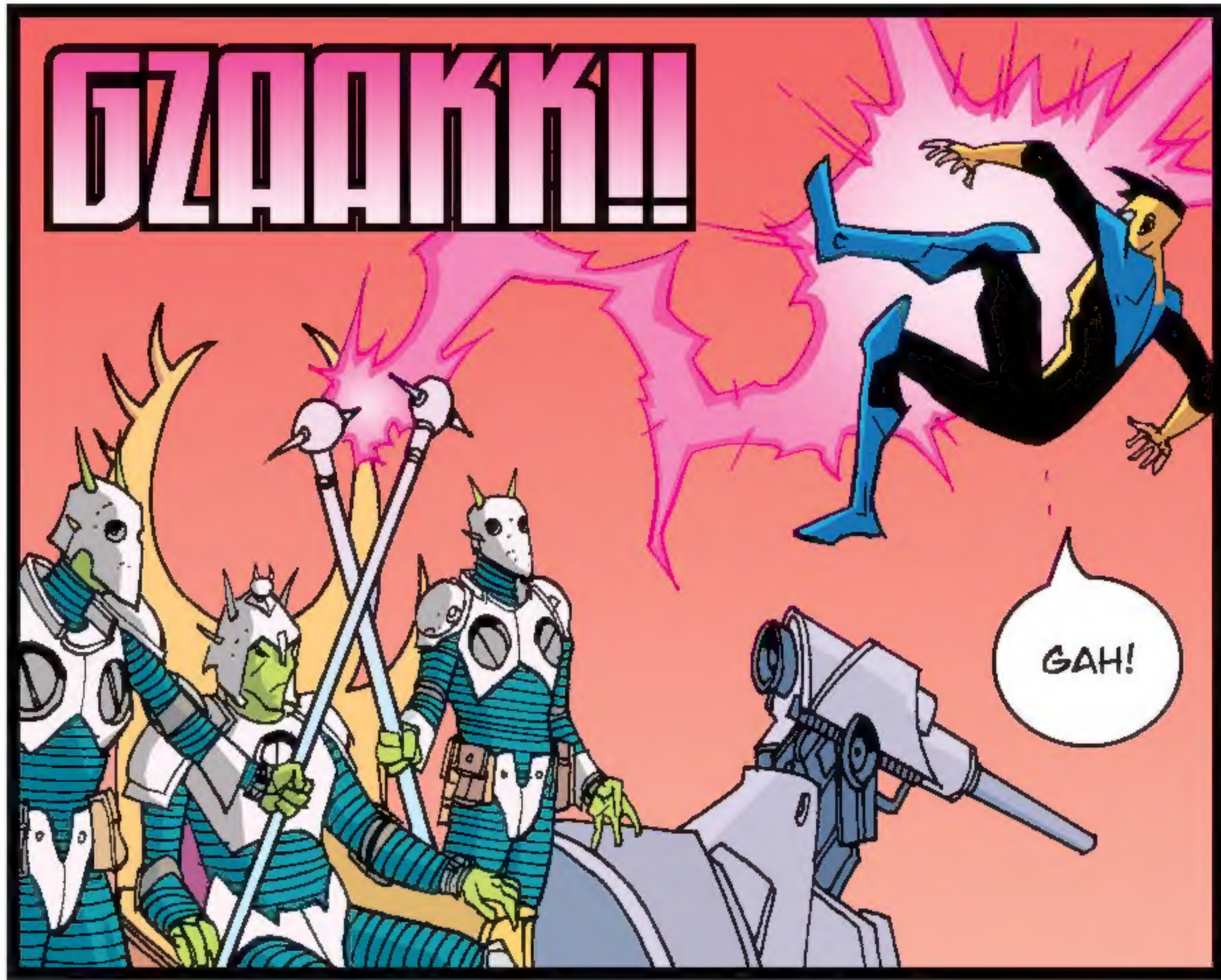
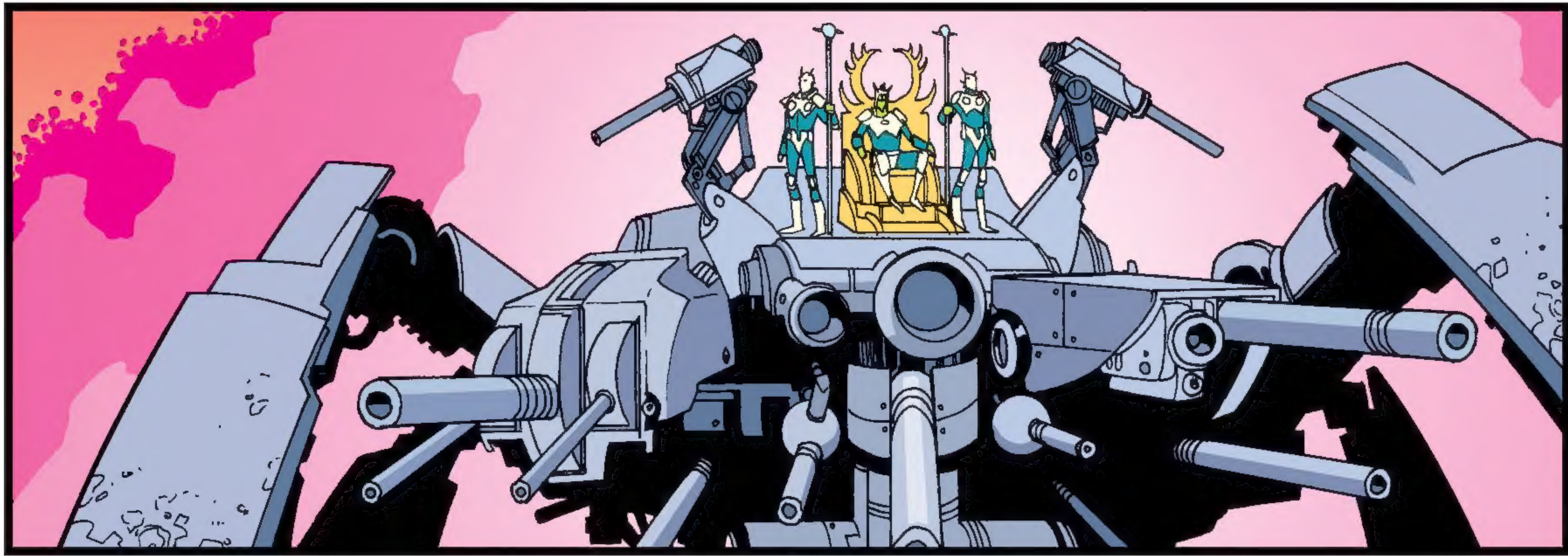
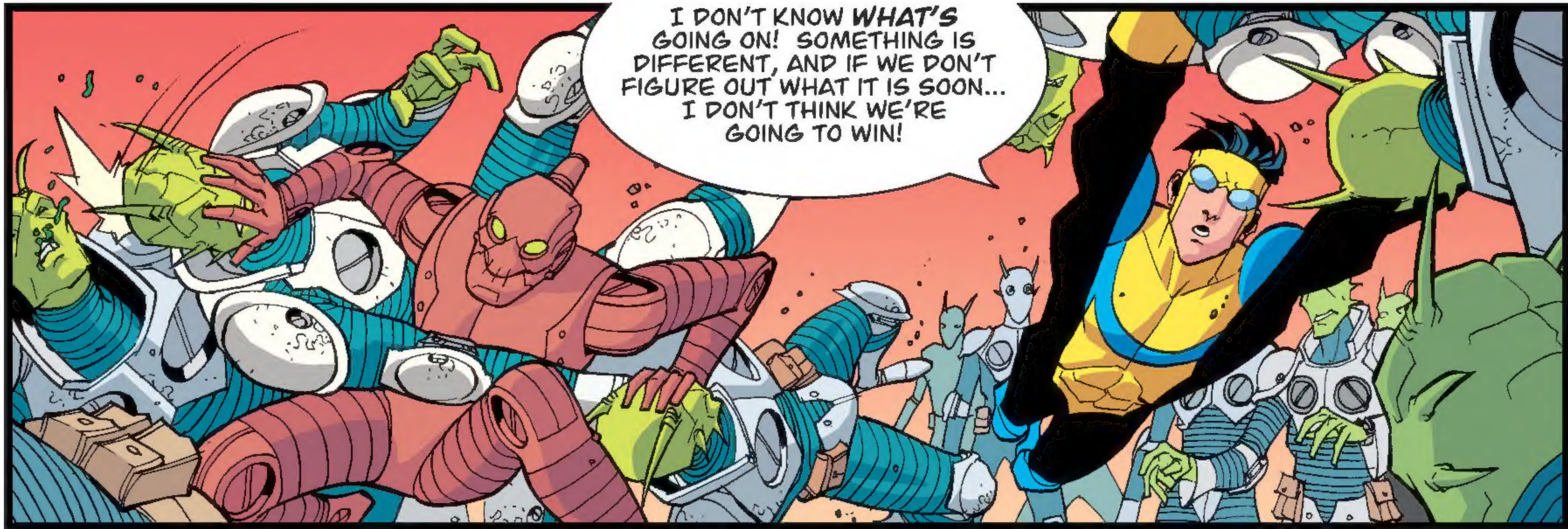
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INVINCIBLE!
YOU SAID WHEN
YOU FOUGHT THESE
THINGS BEFORE THEY
DIDN'T LAST MORE
THAN AN **HOUR** UNTIL
THEIR RAPID AGING
CAUSED THEM TO
RETREAT!

WE HAVE
BEEN AT THIS
NEARLY **TWO HOURS**
AND THEIR NUMBERS
ONLY **INCREASE!** I
FEAR WE CANNOT
HOLD OUT MUCH
LONGER!

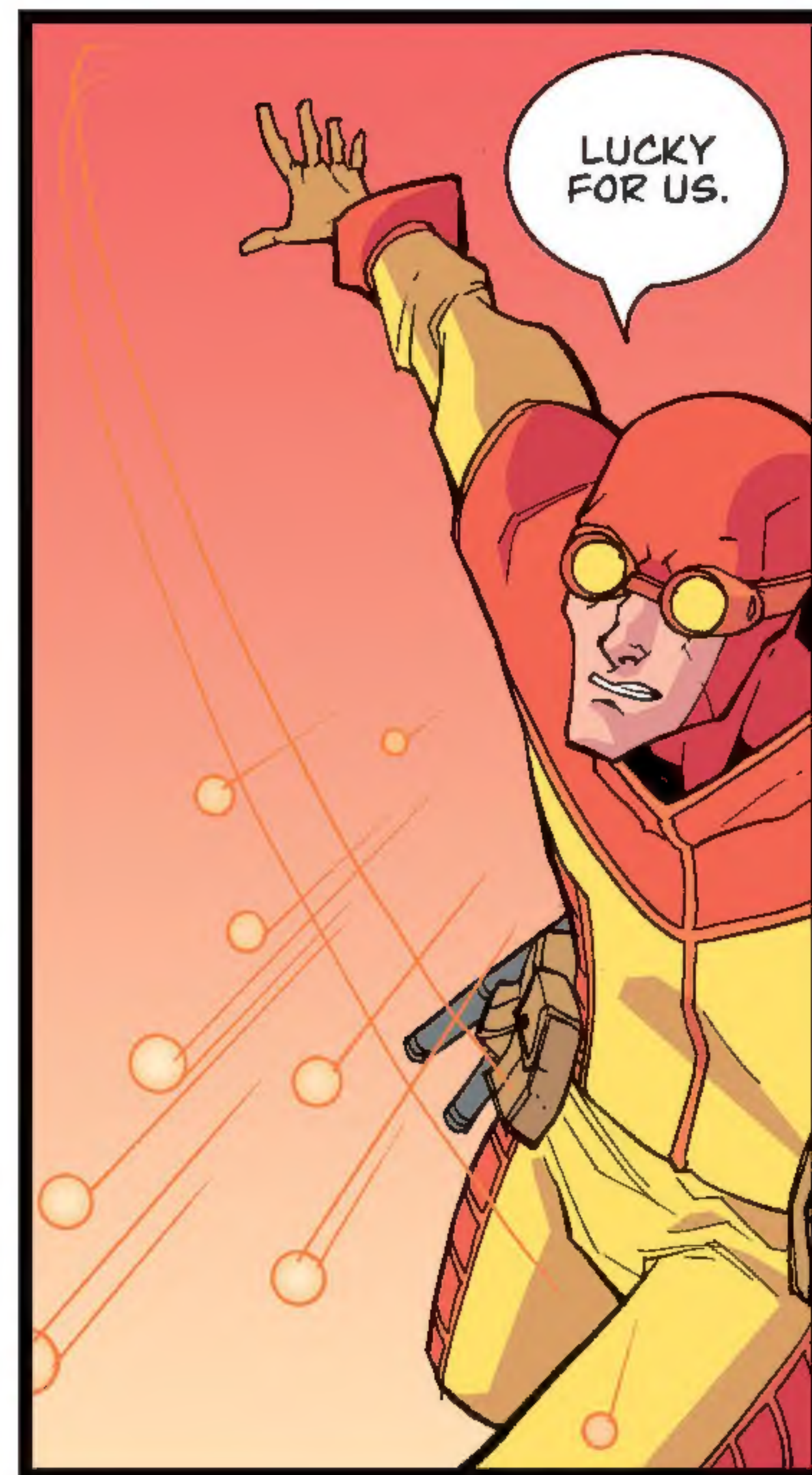
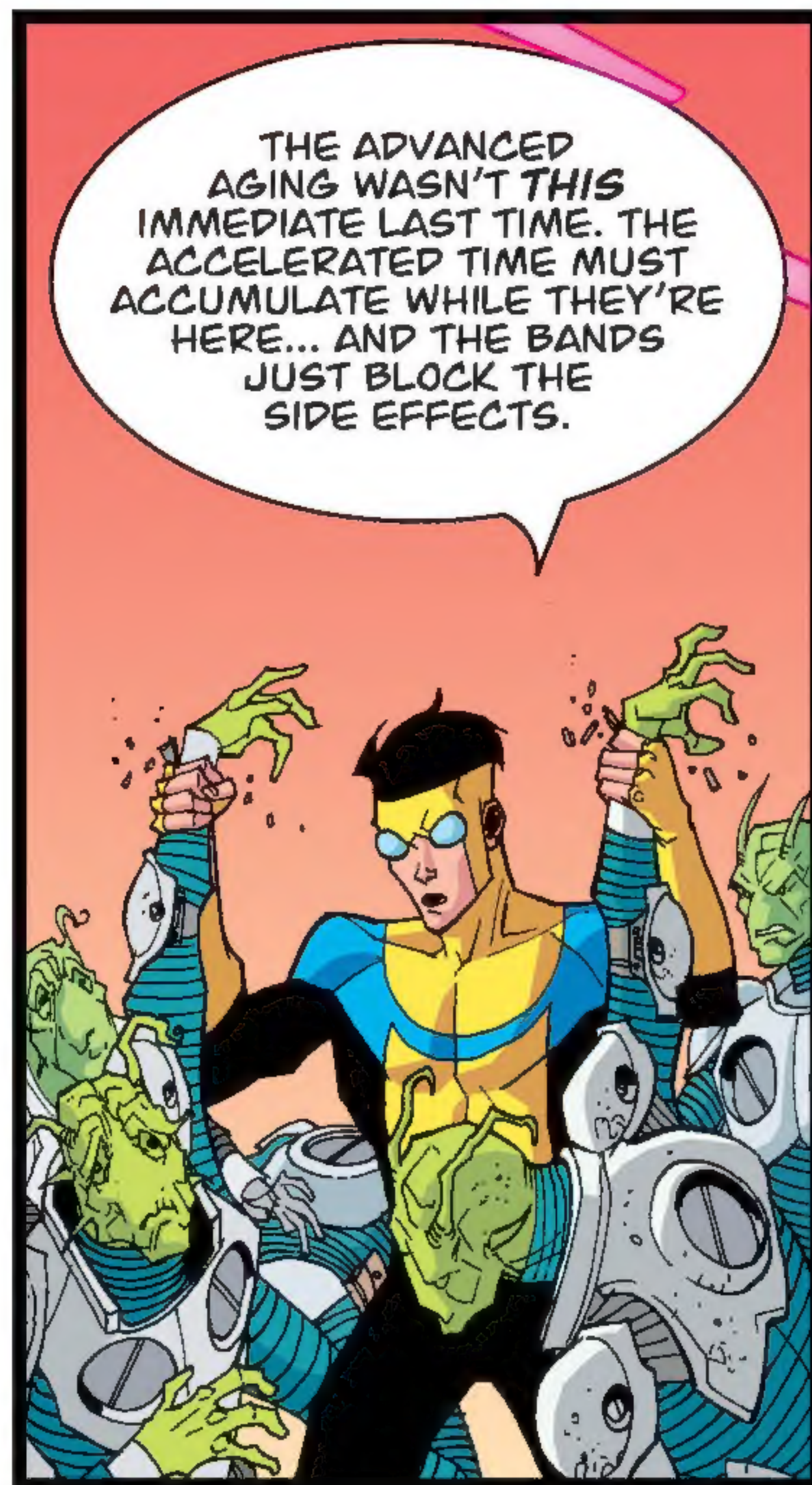


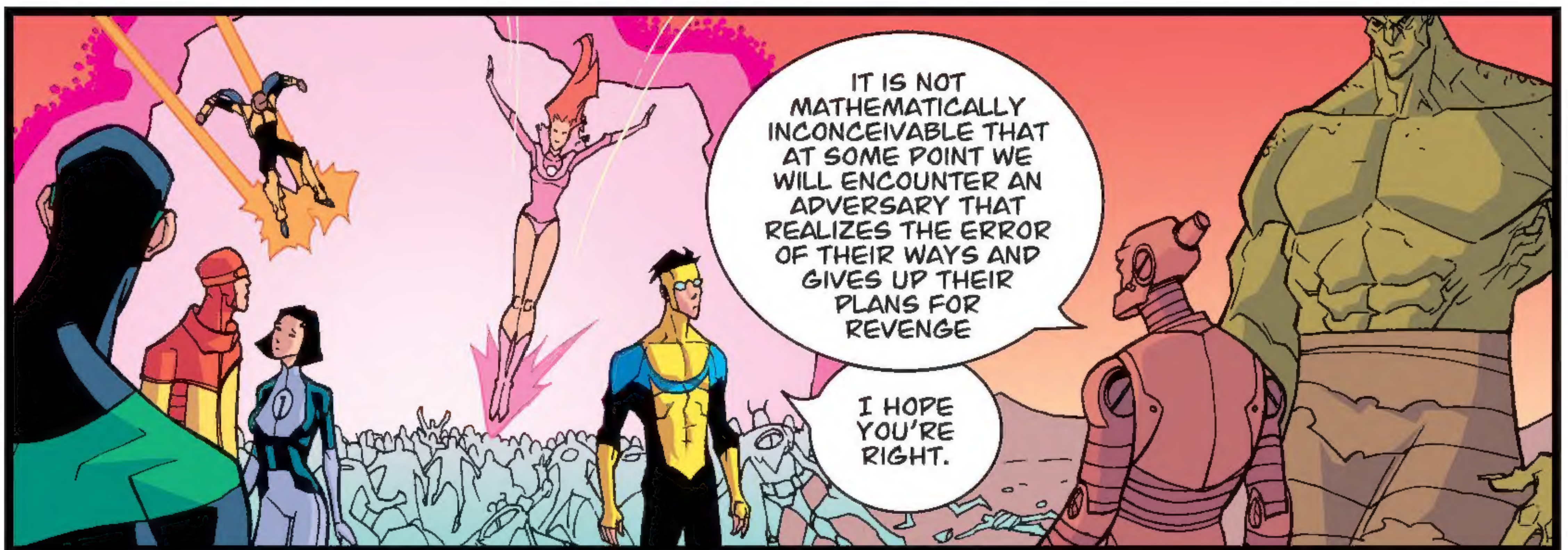
YOU ARE THE SON, HALF OF THE DUO KNOWN AS THE **SCOURGE** OF THE **FLAXAN EMPIRE**! THE FATHER WAS CAPTURED BY US MANY AGES AGO. THE DESTRUCTION HE CAUSED TO OUR HOME WORLD HAS TAKEN US **CENTURIES** TO REPAIR.

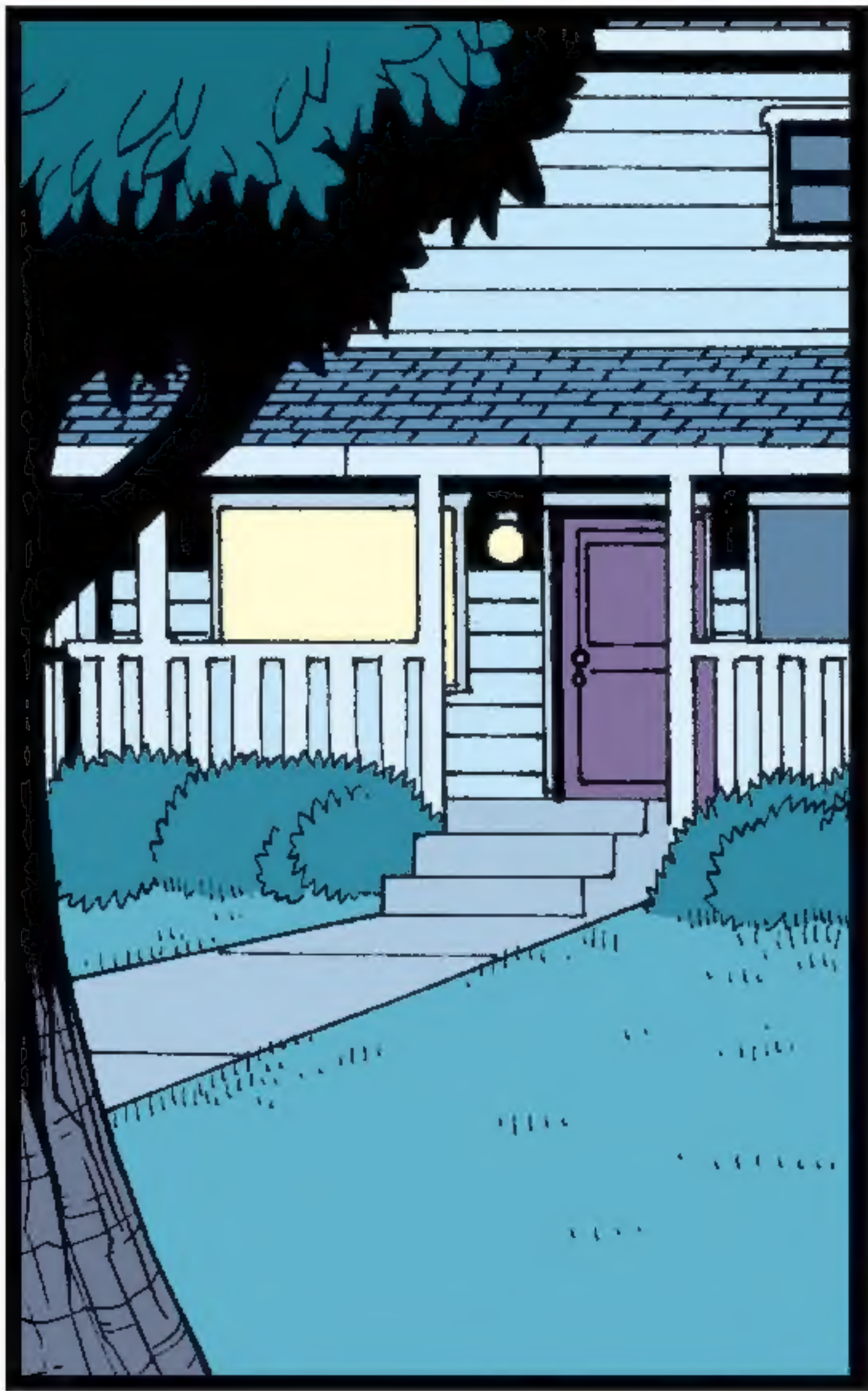
CENTURIES WE SPENT PLOTTING---SCHEMING---PREPARING. WE USED RECORDINGS OF HIS DIALOGUE TO LEARN YOUR LANGUAGE... WE USED MATERIAL FROM HIS CLOTHING TO STUDY THE PROPERTIES OF THIS DIMENSION.

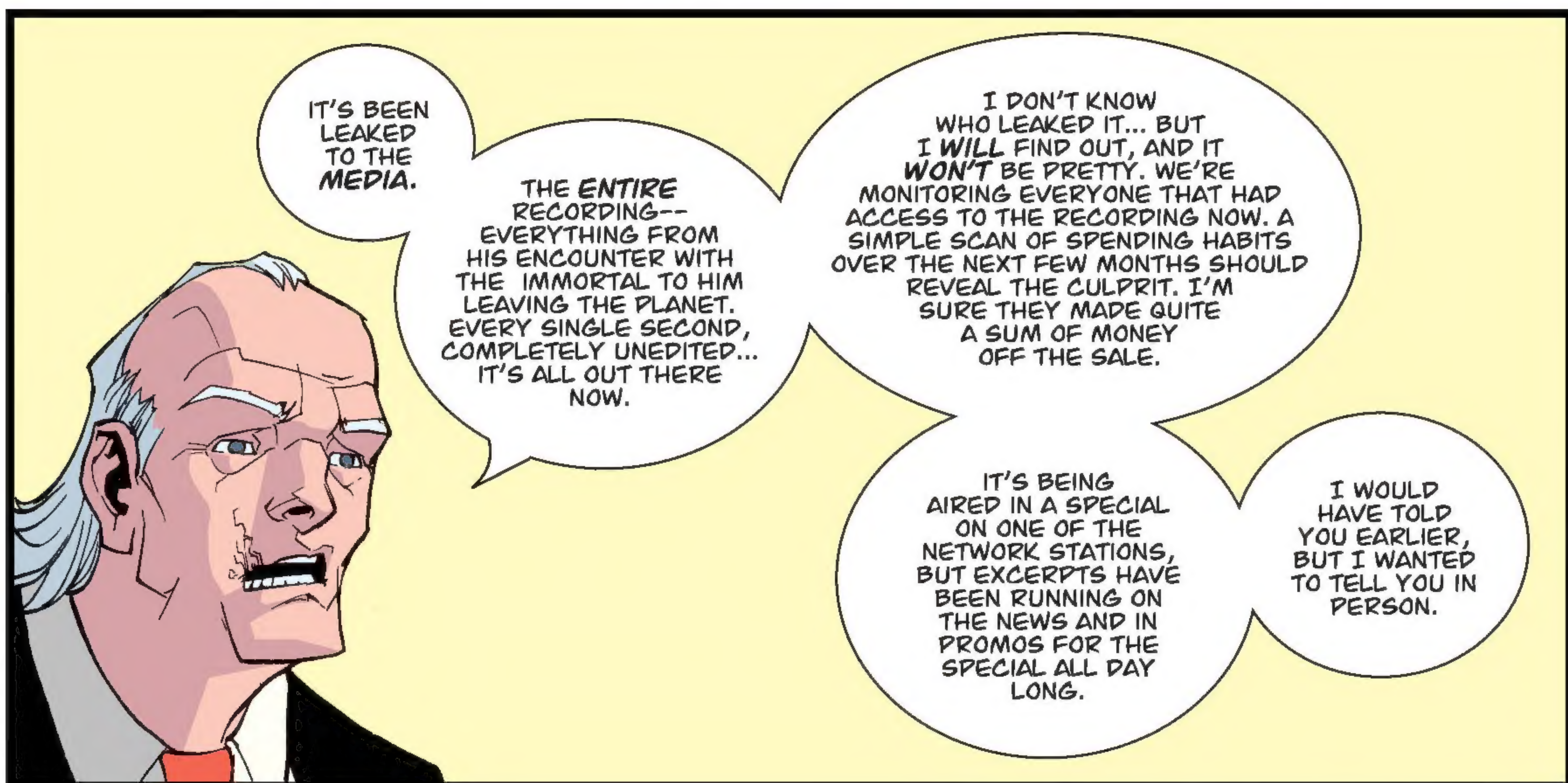
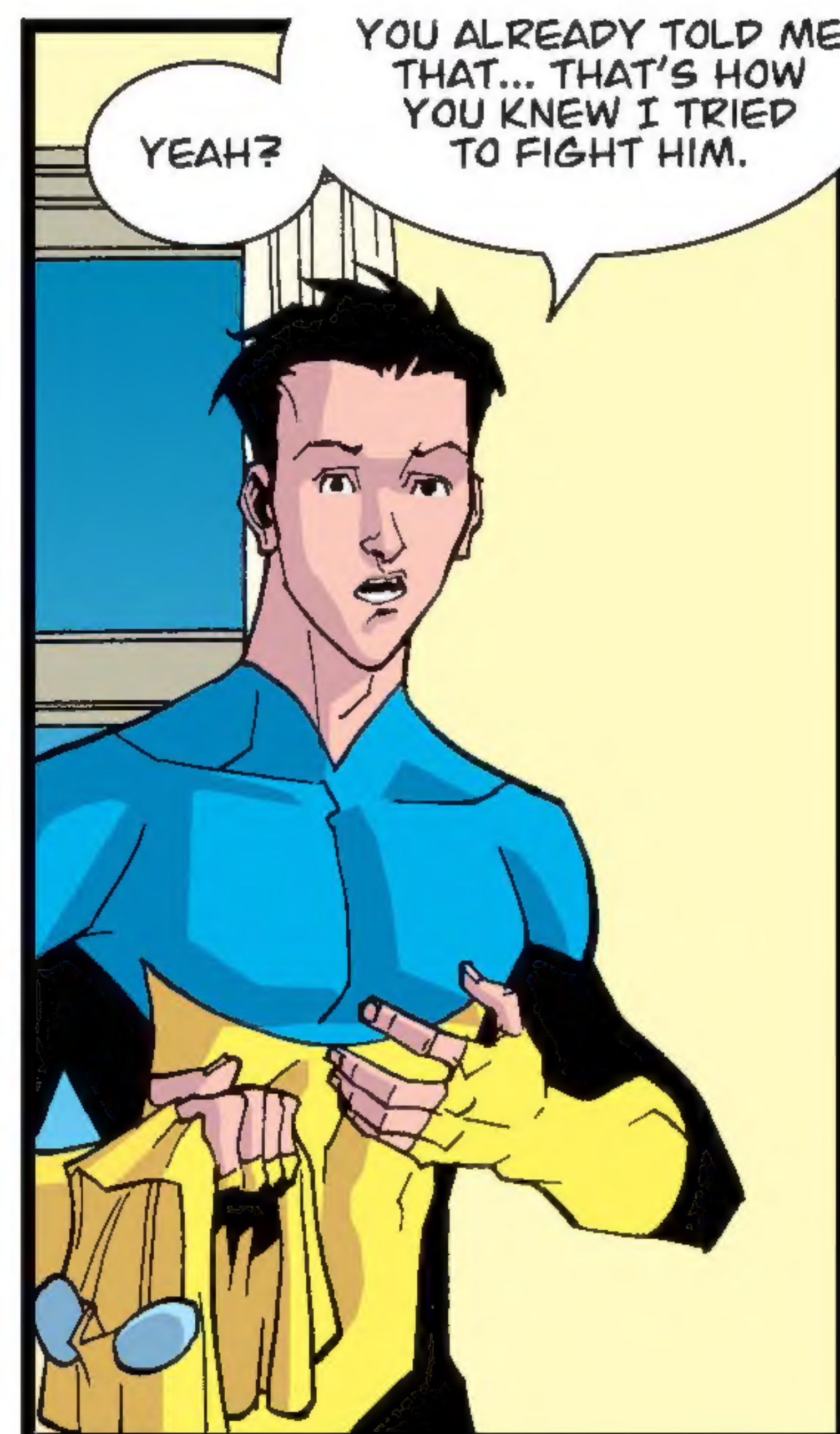
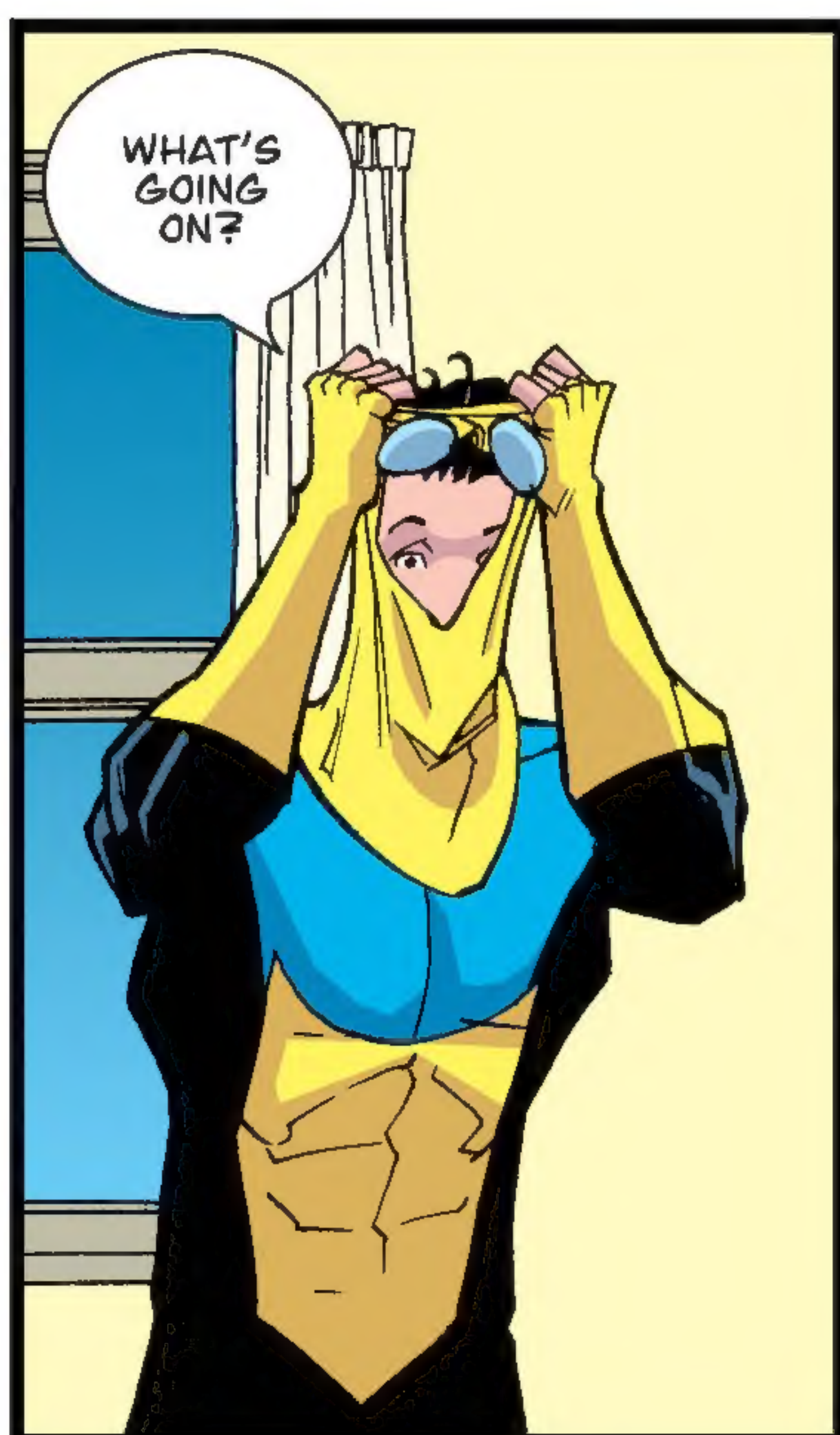
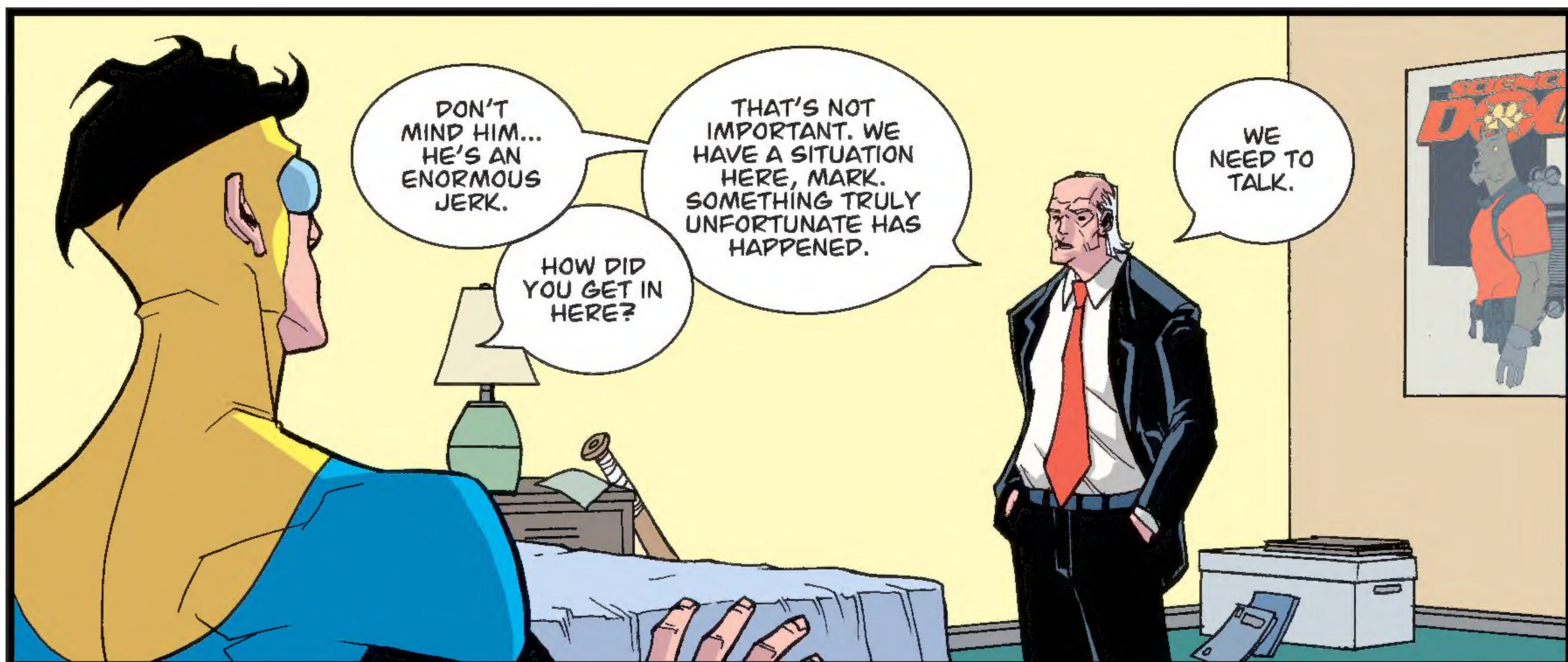
OVER TIME---WE LEARNED TO COUNTERACT THE SIDE EFFECTS OF BEING IN YOUR DIMENSION. AND NOW, WITH OUR **CHRONO-BANDS**... WE'LL FINALLY HAVE OUR REVENGE!





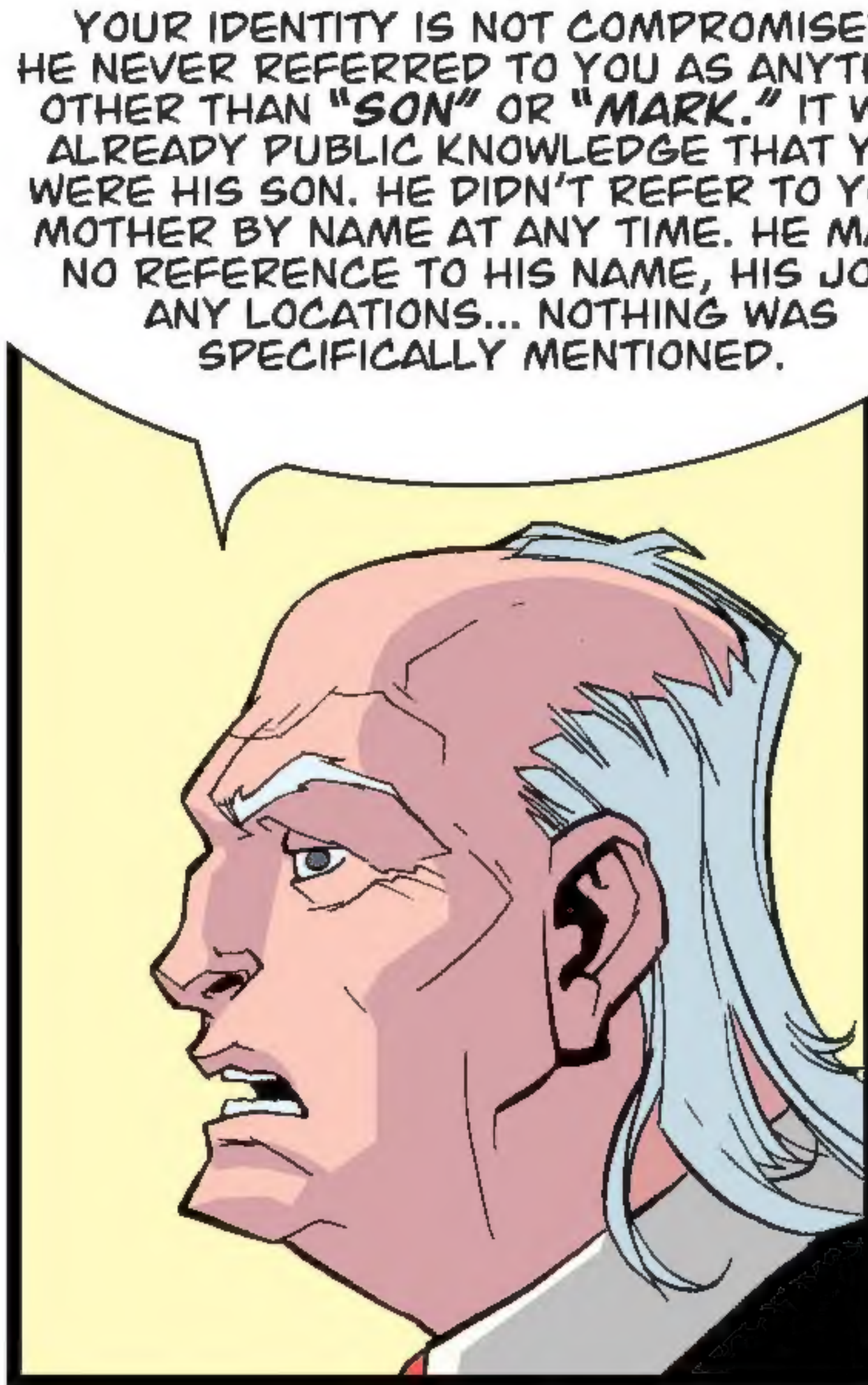








BUT--THE THINGS HE SAID... THE THINGS HE TALKED ABOUT... THAT WOULD MEAN--

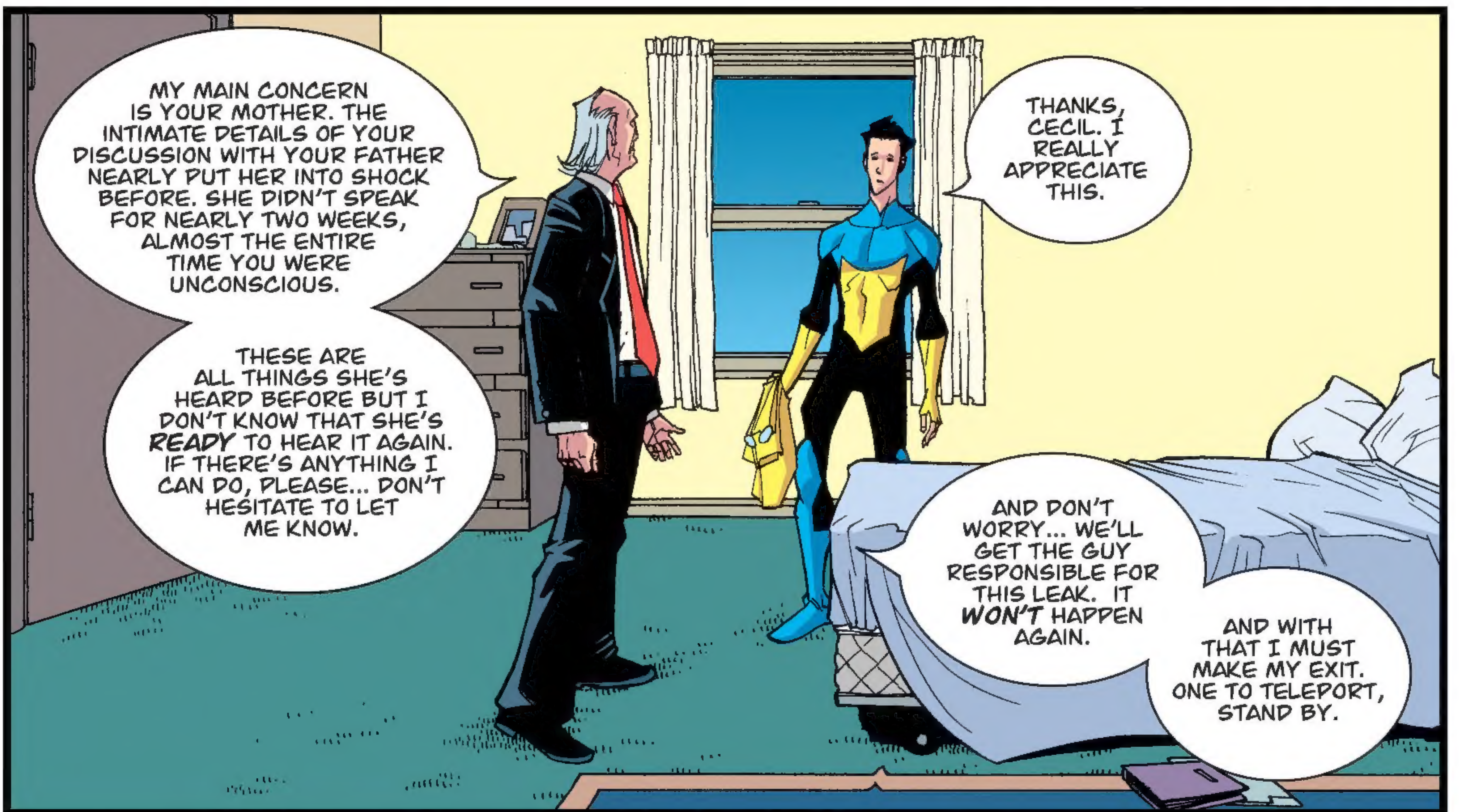


YOUR IDENTITY IS NOT COMPROMISED. HE NEVER REFERRED TO YOU AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN "SON" OR "MARK." IT WAS ALREADY PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU WERE HIS SON. HE DIDN'T REFER TO YOUR MOTHER BY NAME AT ANY TIME. HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO HIS NAME, HIS JOB, ANY LOCATIONS... NOTHING WAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED.



NEITHER YOU NOR YOUR FATHER HAVE EVER BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH ANY SPECIFIC AREA OF THE COUNTRY. YOU HAVE NO METROPOLIS. ASIDE FROM YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUR PHYSICS TEACHER, THERE'S NOTHING TO TIE YOU WITH THIS REGION. FOR THE MOST PART, YOU'VE BOTH BEEN ACTIVE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. IT'S ONLY SPECULATED THAT YOU ARE AMERICAN.

SO YOU COULD BE ANY NUMBER OF THOUSANDS OF "MARKS" ON THIS EARTH.



MY MAIN CONCERN IS YOUR MOTHER. THE INTIMATE DETAILS OF YOUR DISCUSSION WITH YOUR FATHER NEARLY PUT HER INTO SHOCK BEFORE. SHE DIDN'T SPEAK FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS, ALMOST THE ENTIRE TIME YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.

THESE ARE ALL THINGS SHE'S HEARD BEFORE BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT SHE'S READY TO HEAR IT AGAIN. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, PLEASE... DON'T HESITATE TO LET ME KNOW.

THANKS, CECIL. I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS.

AND DON'T WORRY... WE'LL GET THE GUY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS LEAK. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

AND WITH THAT I MUST MAKE MY EXIT. ONE TO TELEPORT, STAND BY.

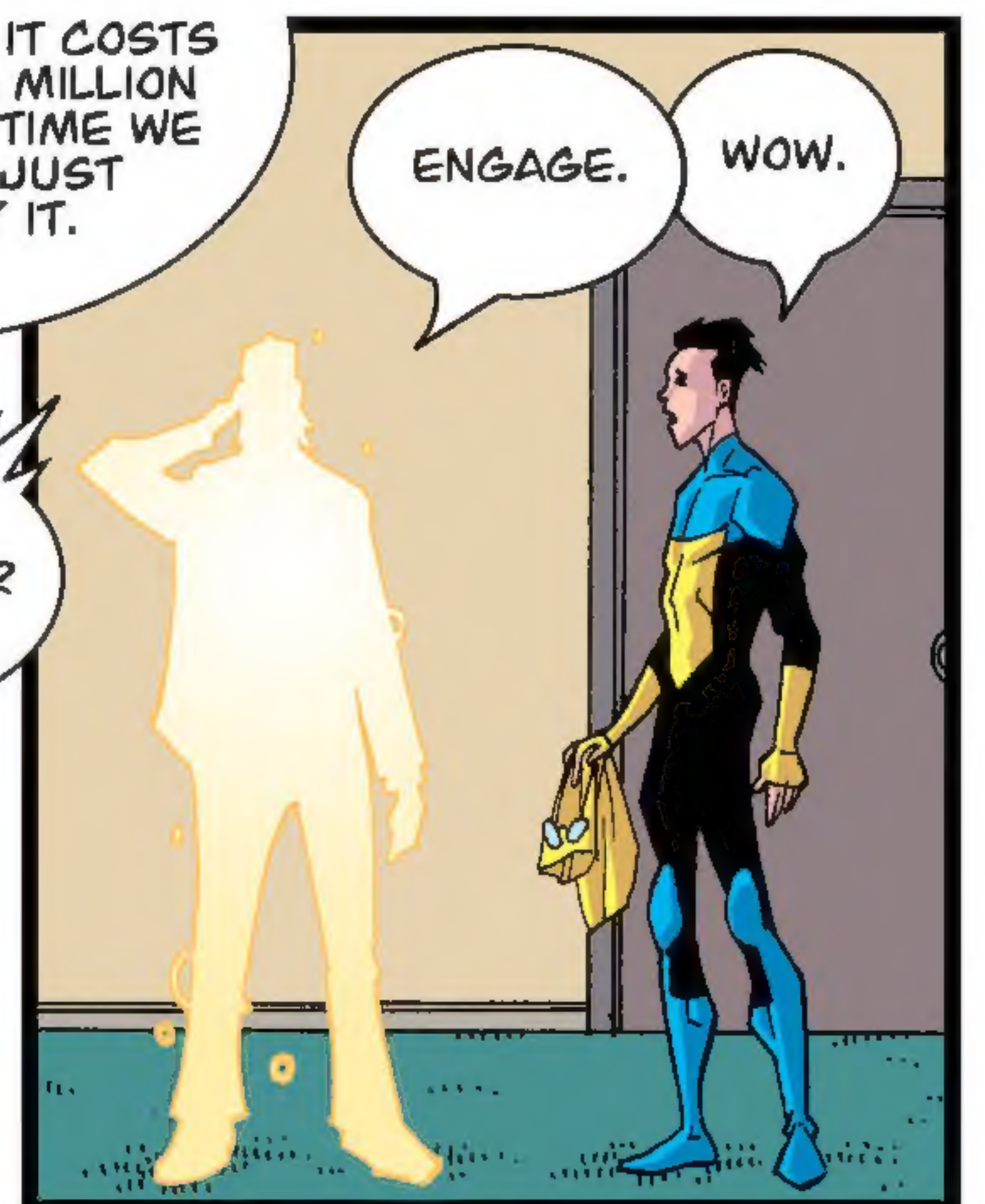


TELEPORT? WE CAN DO THAT?!



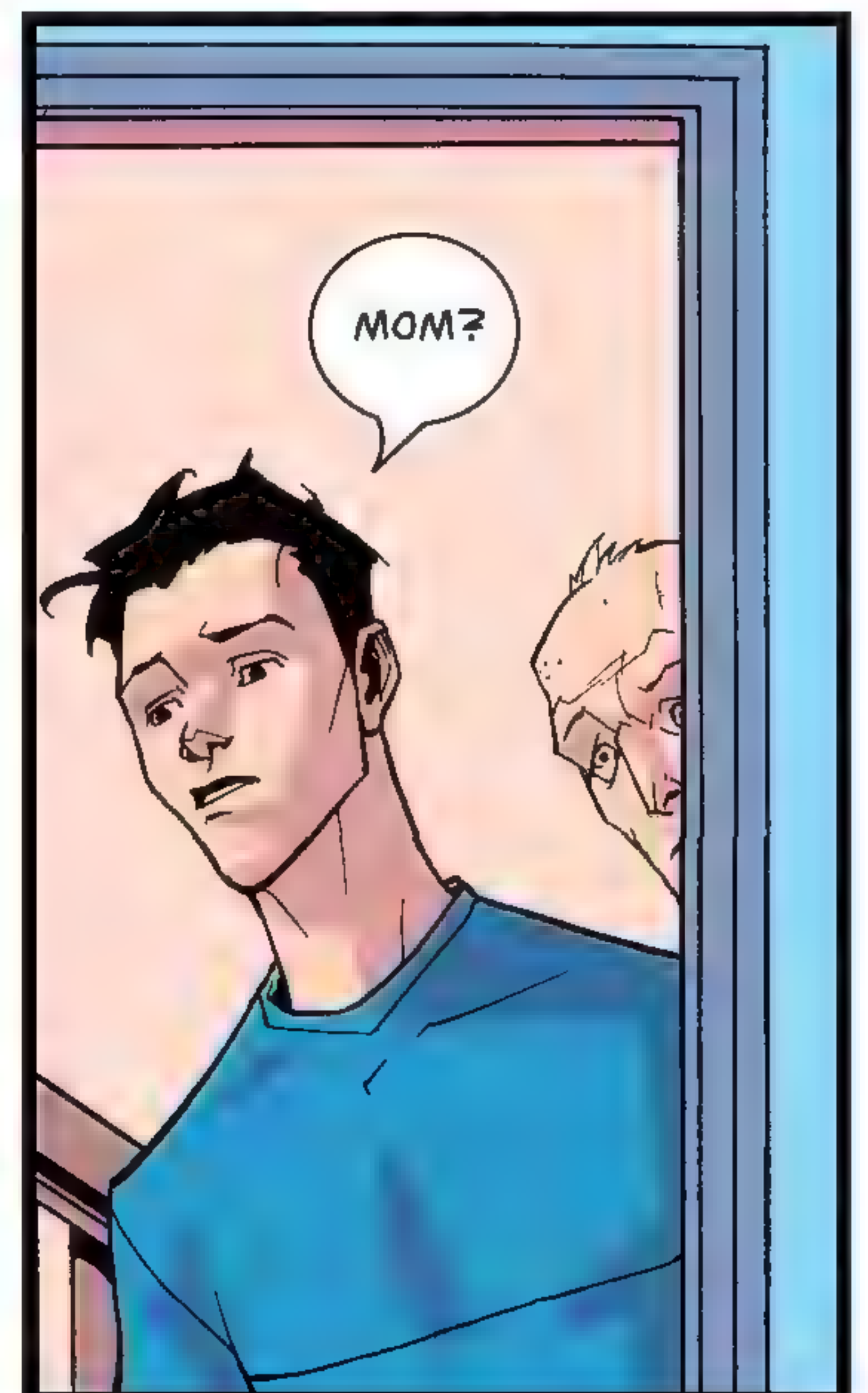
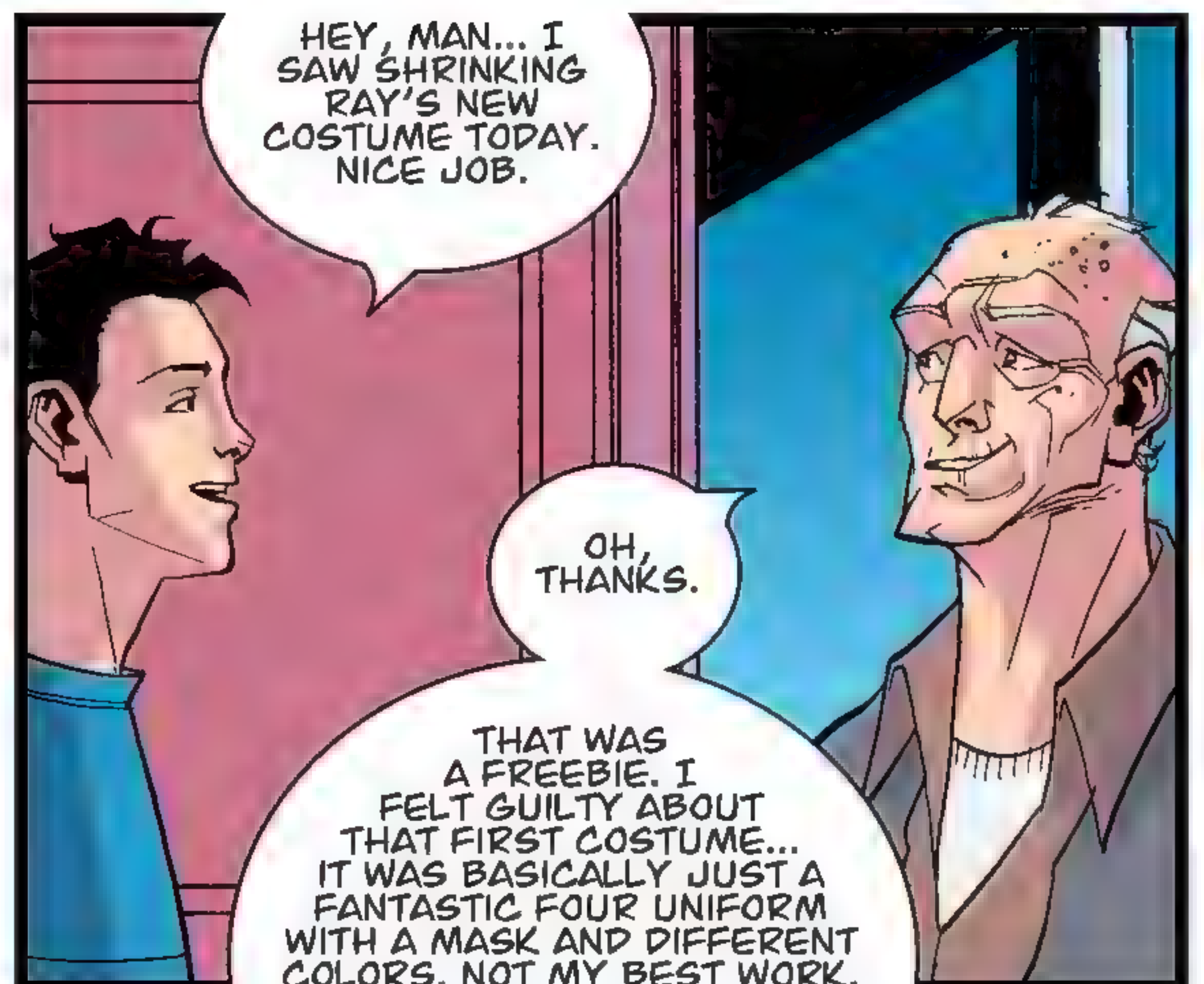
WE JUST GOT IT. IT COSTS TAXPAYERS FIVE MILLION DOLLARS EVERY TIME WE USE IT BUT I JUST HAD TO TRY IT.

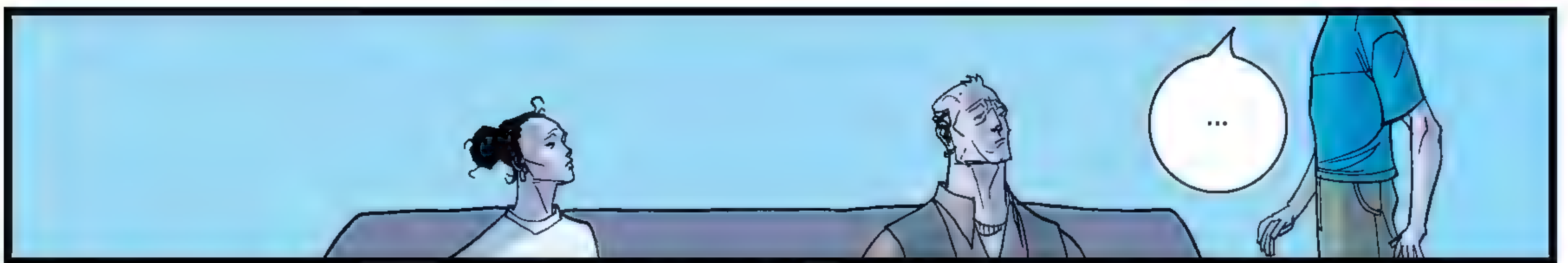
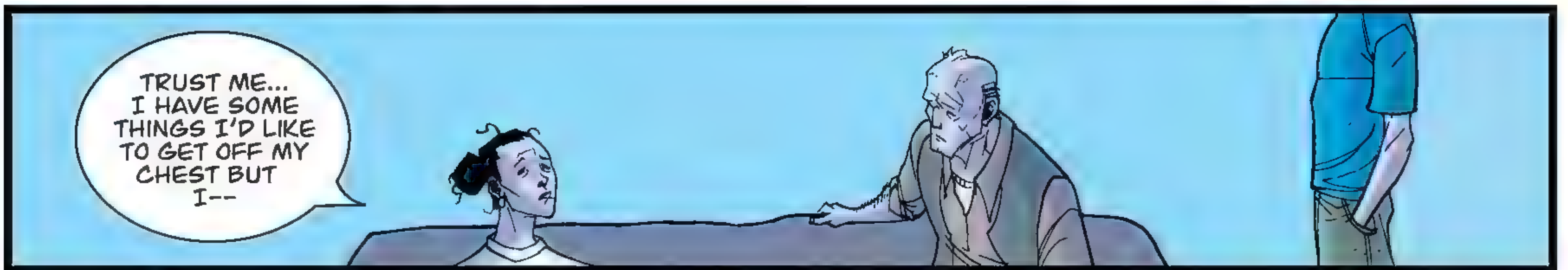
WE'RE READY FOR YOU.

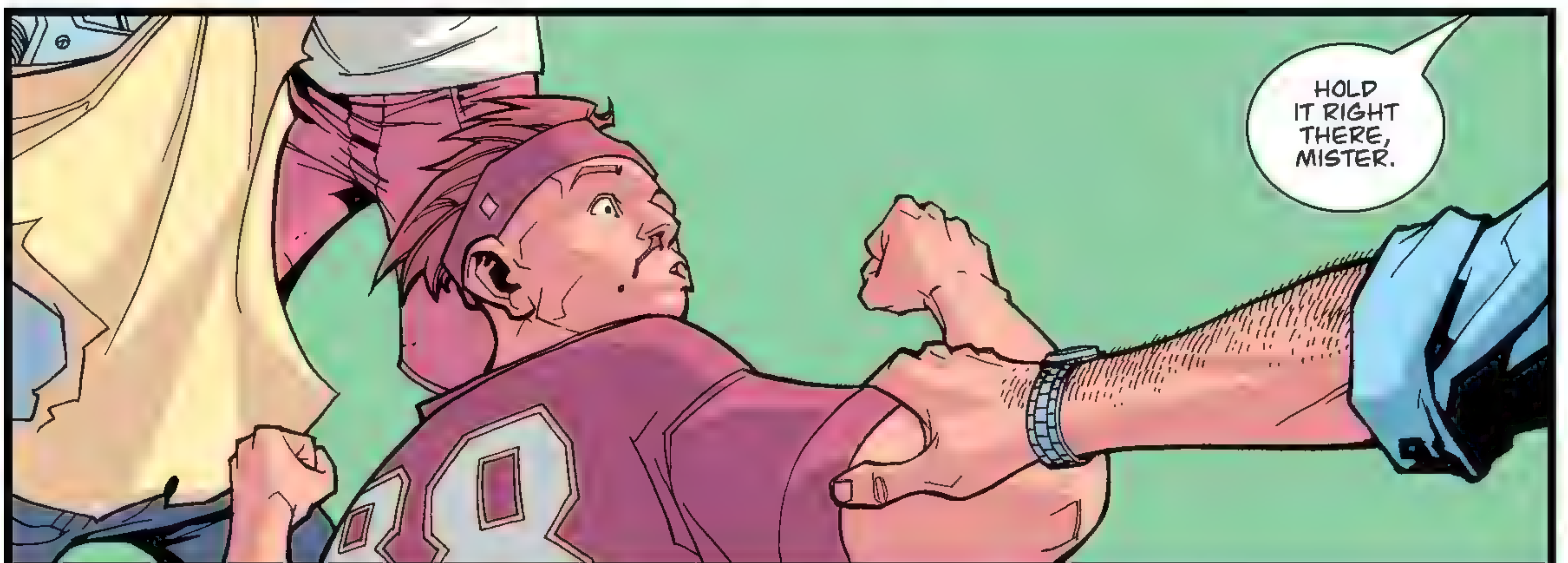
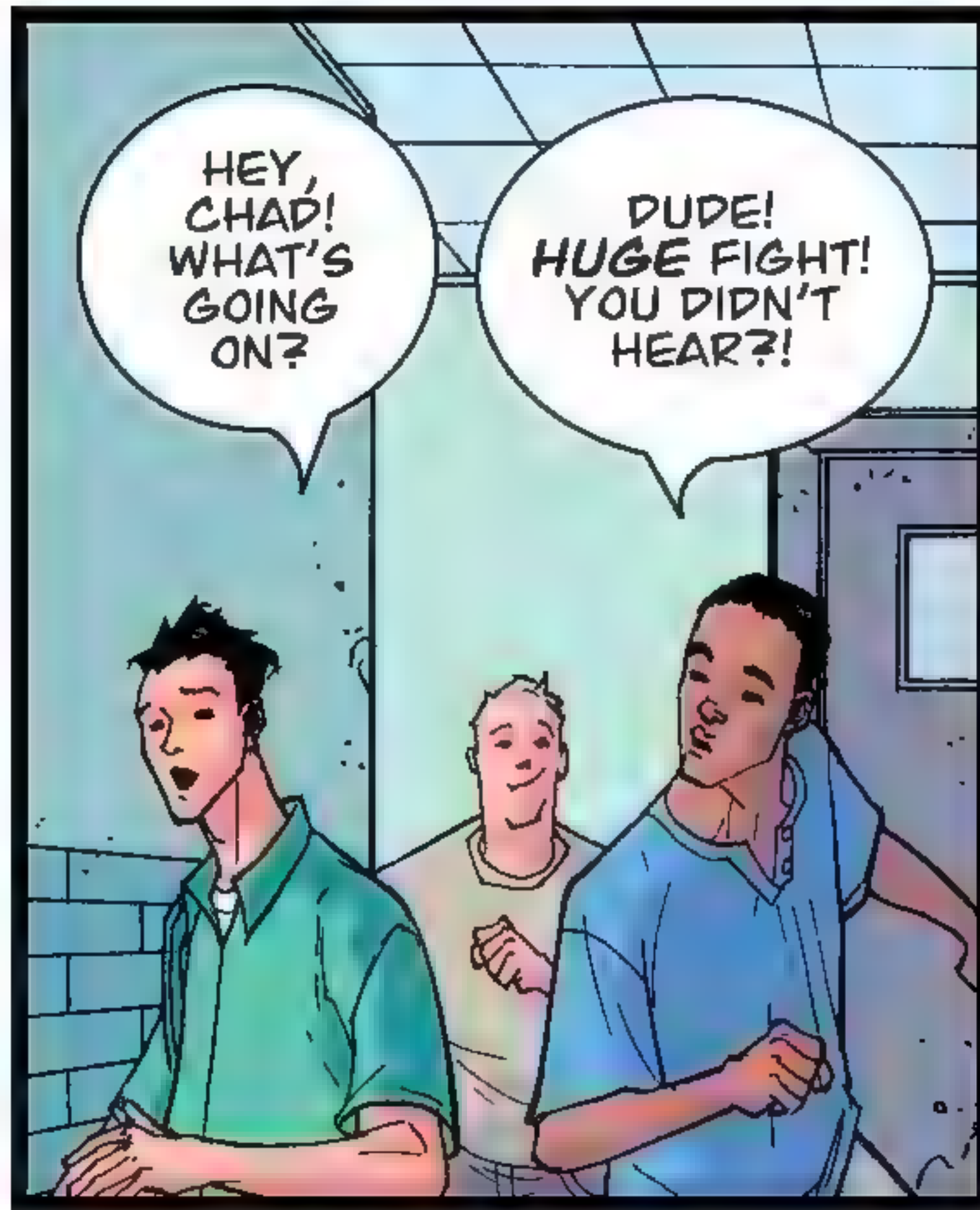


ENGAGE.

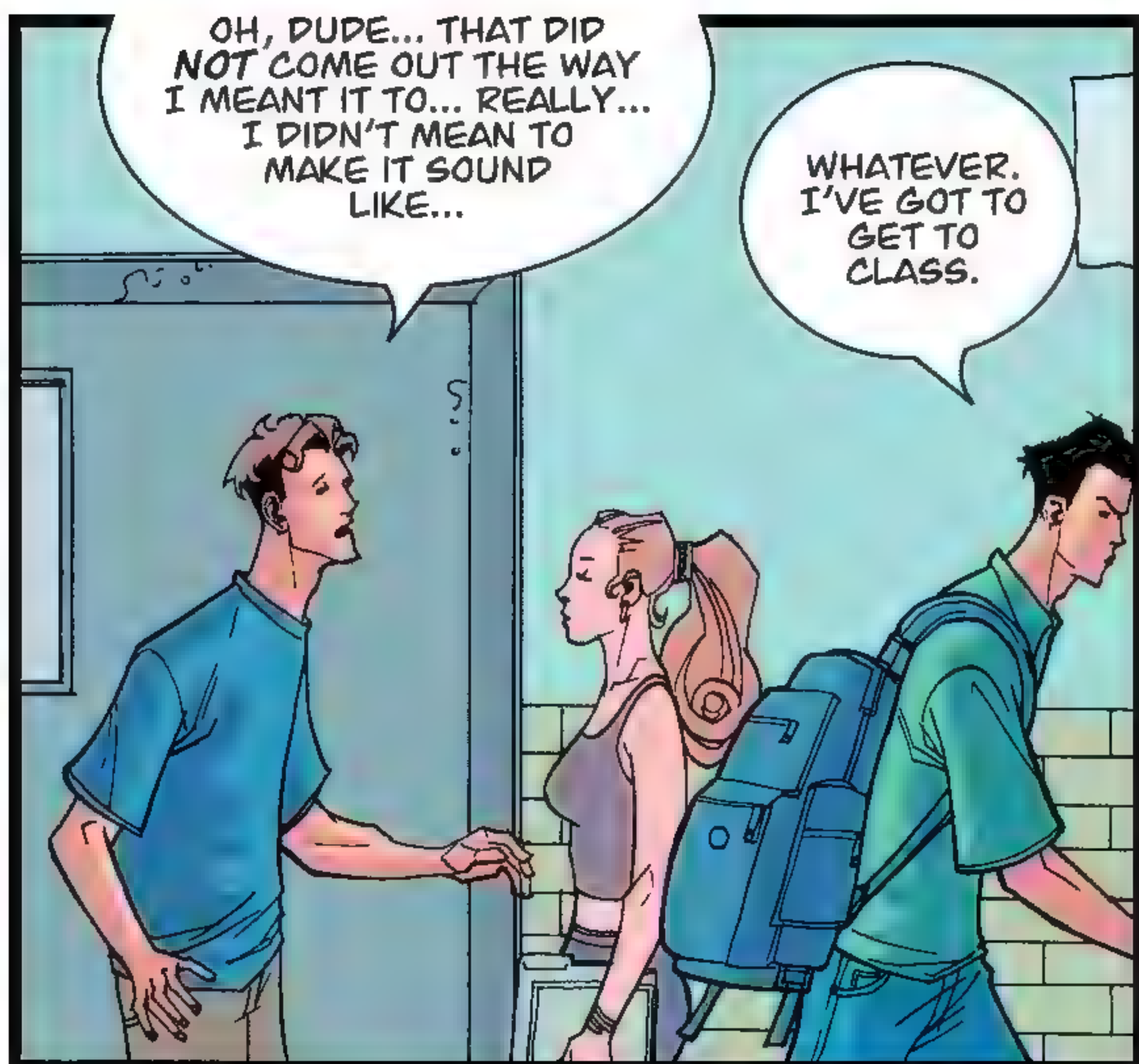
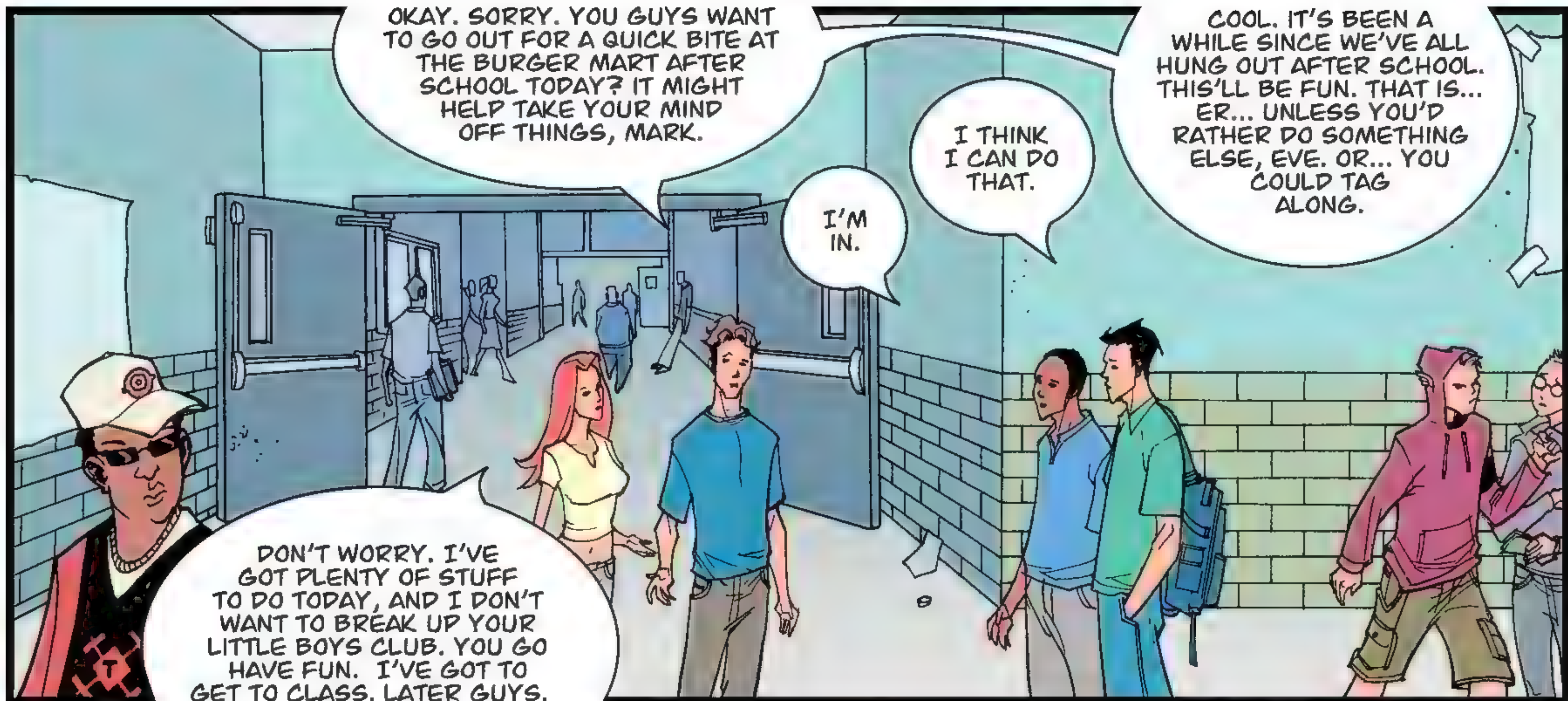
WOW.

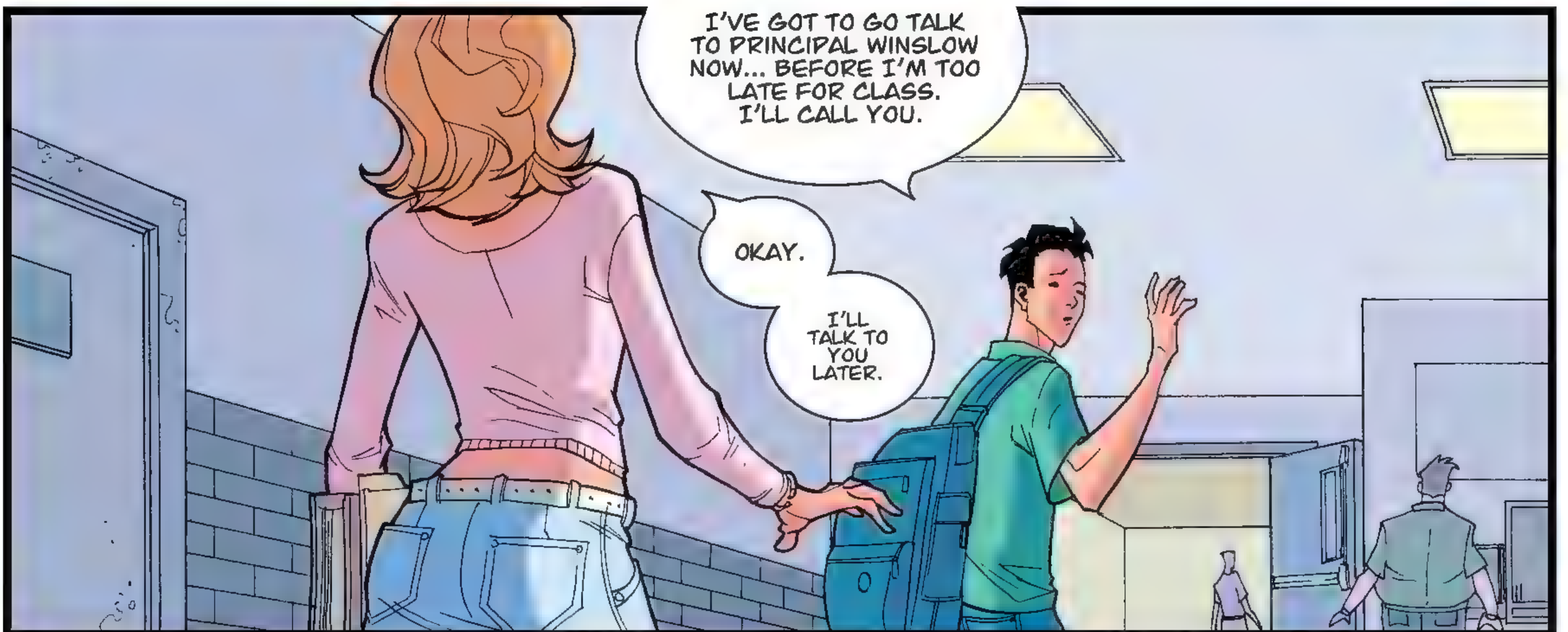
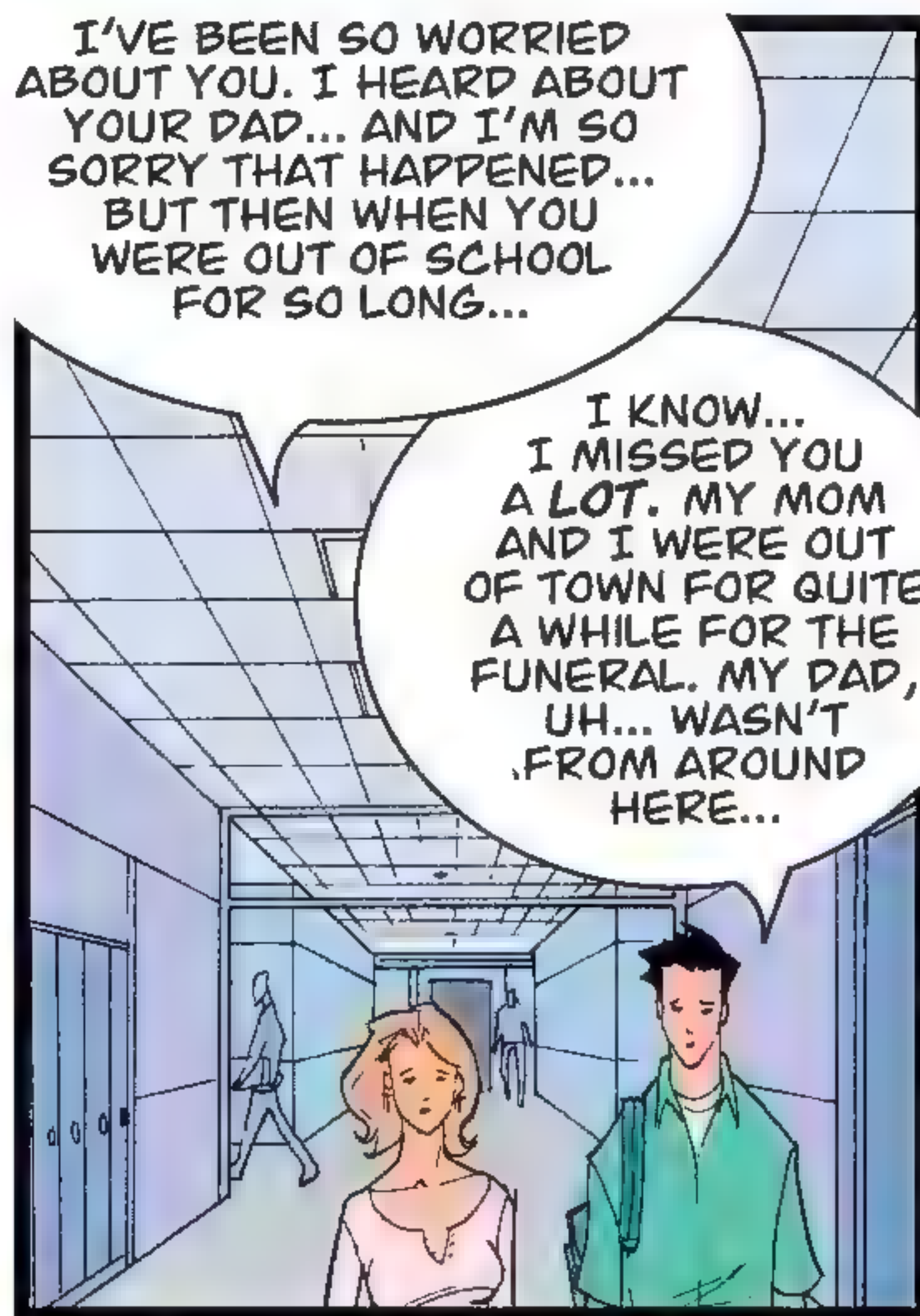
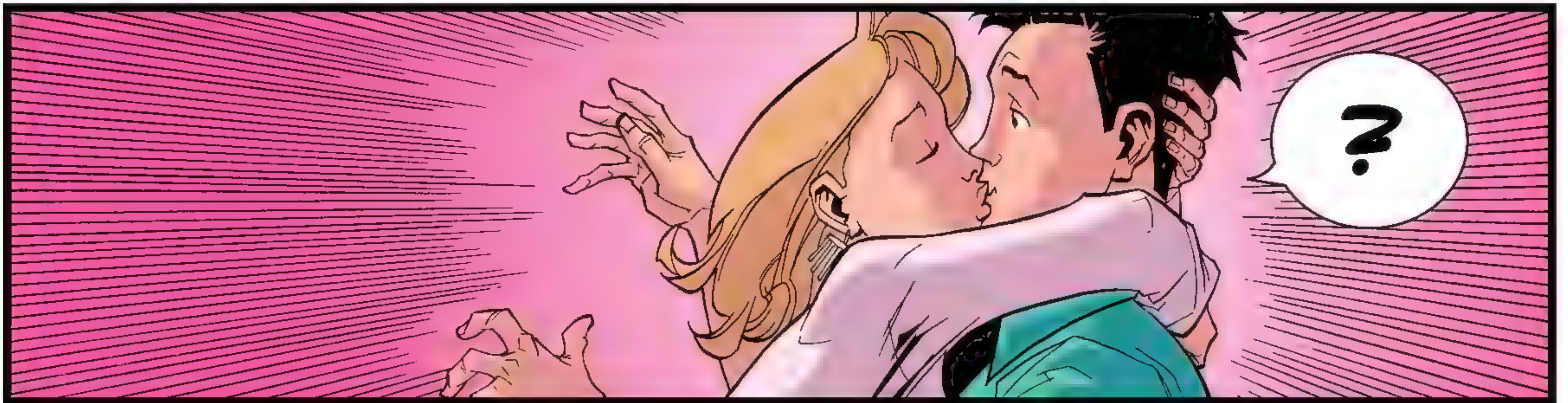


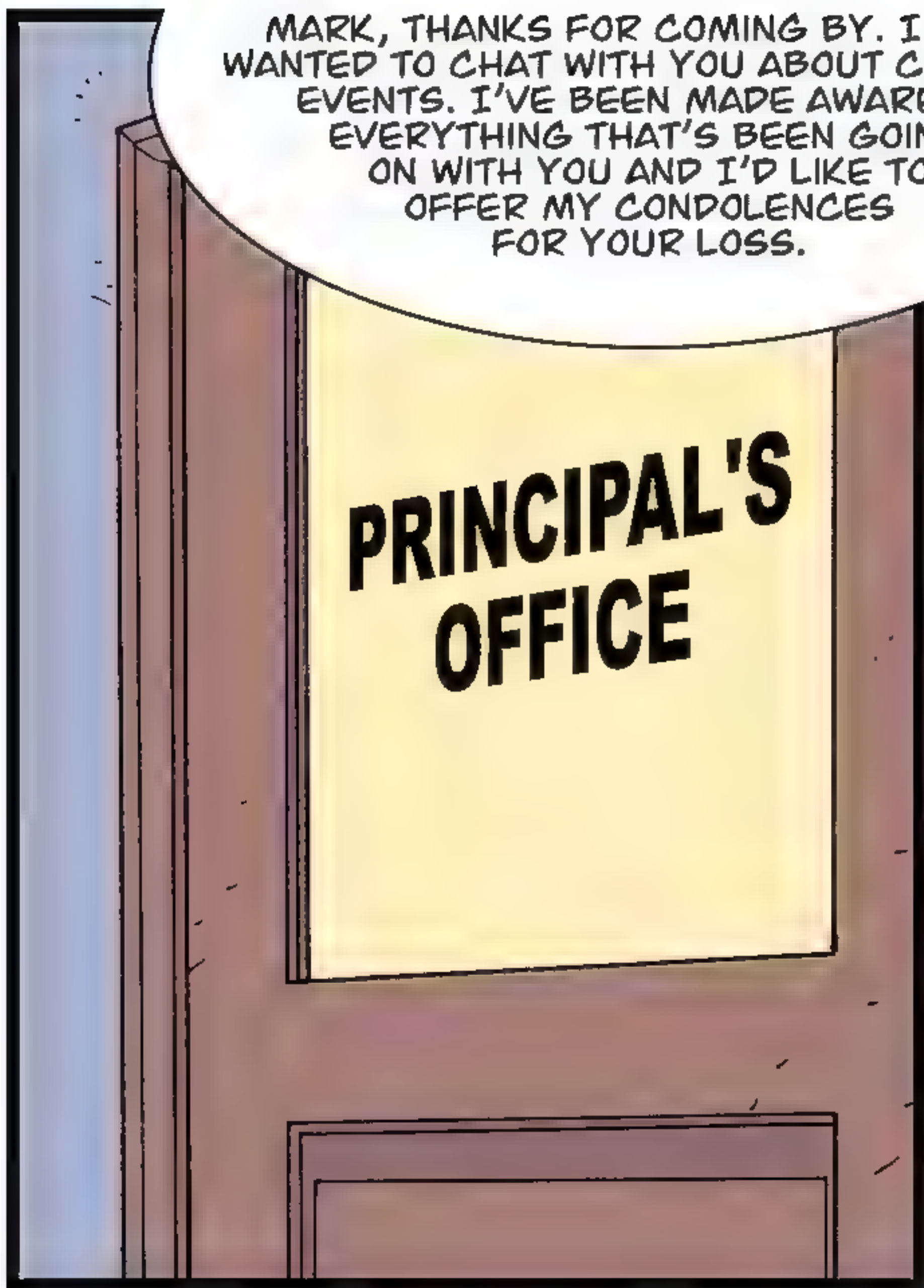


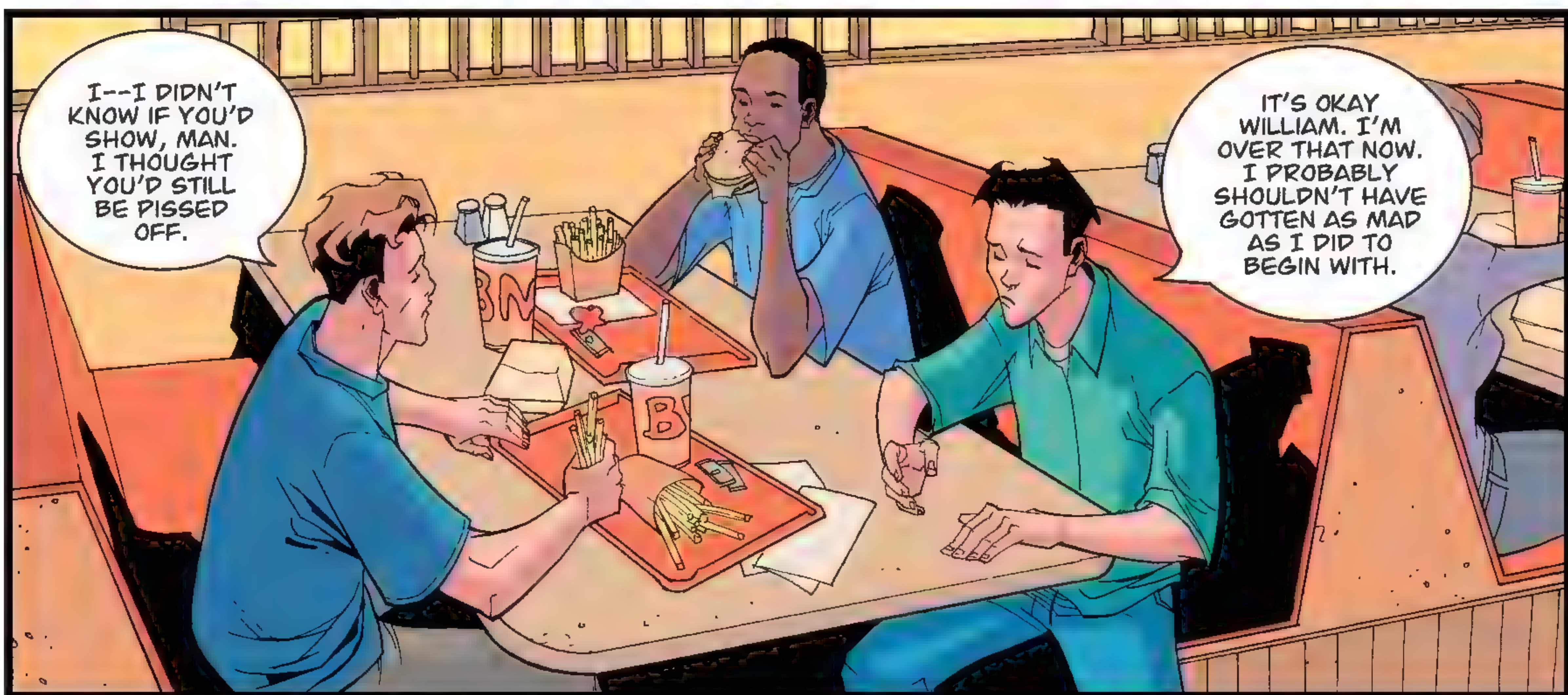














STILL, MAN... I WANT YOU TO KNOW... I'M REALLY SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO BRING IT UP LIKE THAT.



OKAY, MAN... ENOUGH. LET'S GET TO THE GOOD STUFF. YOU AND EVE... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?



WILD, HUH?



YEAH, TO SAY THE LEAST. I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED THAT IN A MILLION YEARS.



OH, COME ON, GUYS! IT'S NOT THAT HARD TO BELIEVE. EVE AND I ARE--



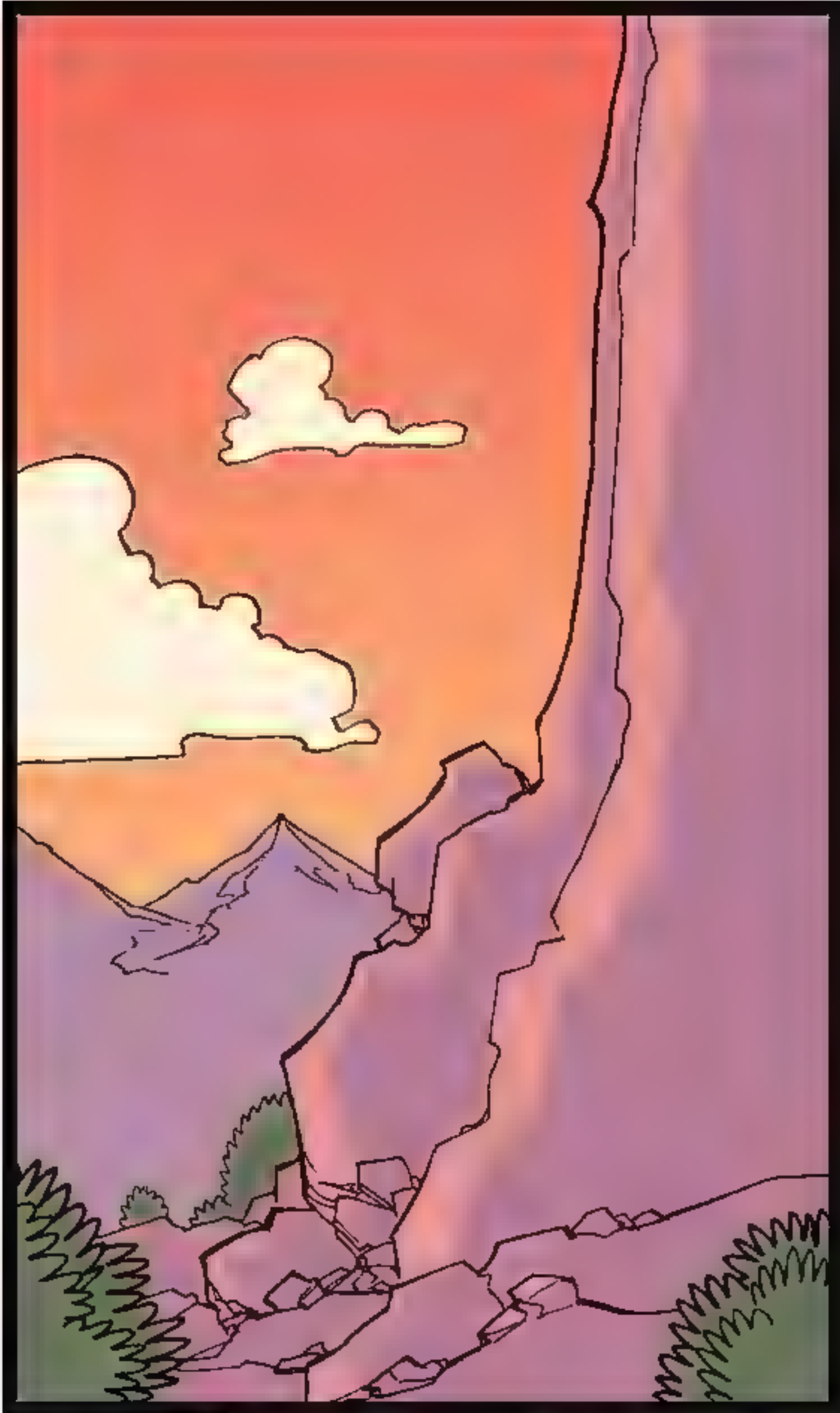
OH, CRAP.



WHAT? WHAT'D I SAY? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I THINK HE MEANS ME.





YOU DID WELL IN SAUDI ARABIA TODAY. THE FLAXANS-- I BELIEVE THEY WERE CALLED--DIDN'T CAUSE MUCH DAMAGE... AND IT WASN'T TOO LONG AN INCIDENT. WE'RE NOT IMPRESSED, BUT YOUR TEAM IS IMPROVING.

I'M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY BUT I DO NOT AGREE WITH YOUR INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF MY TEAM. I THINK WE ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE--

NO. YOUR RESPONSE TIME IS NEARLY HALF OF WHAT THE ORIGINAL TEAM BOASTED. WE DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COMPLETELY FILL THEIR SHOES BUT WE DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO FALL SO SHORT.



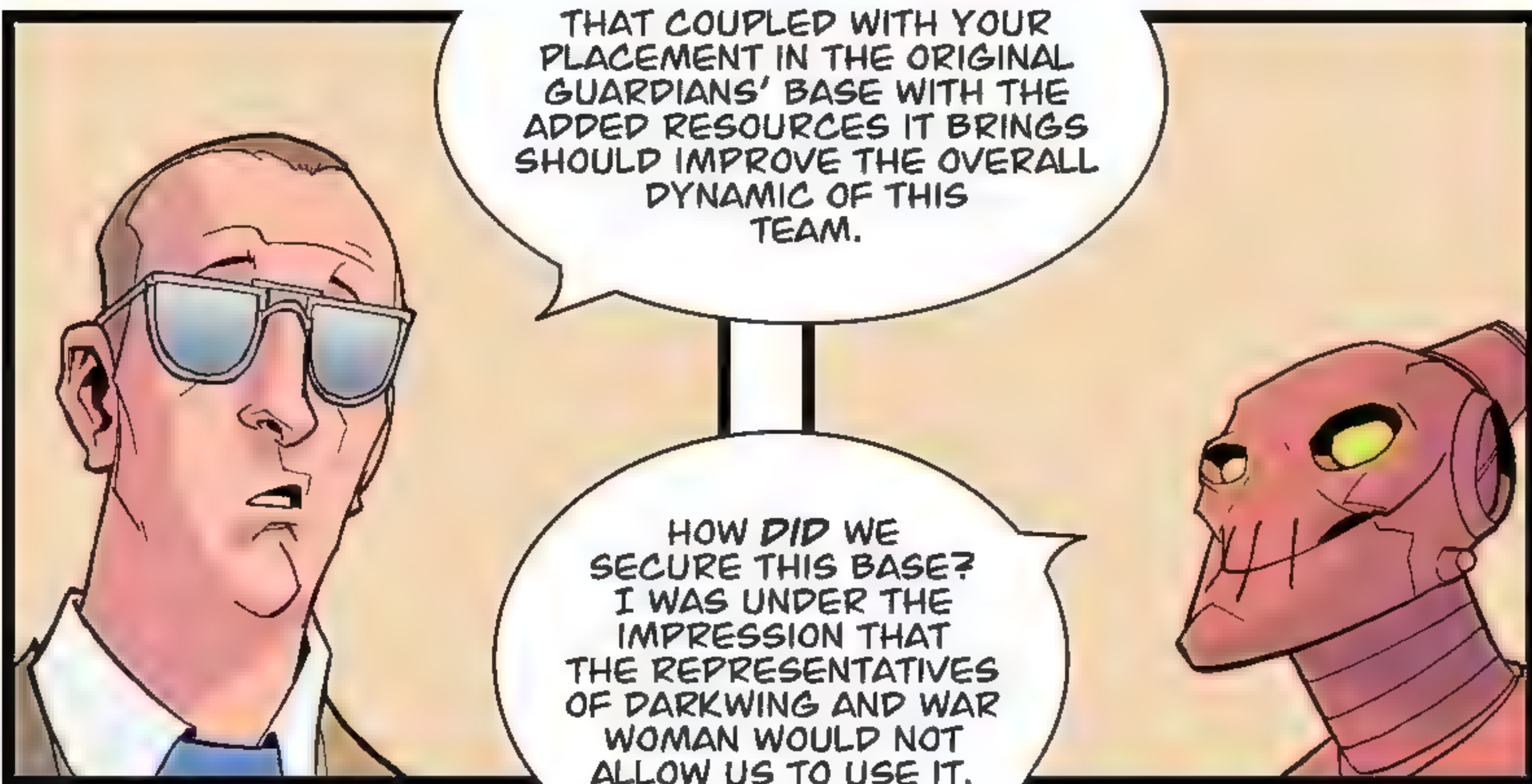
WHICH IS WHY WE'RE EXPANDING THE TEAM.

THIS IS BULLETPROOF, HE WAS AT THE AUDITIONS YOU HELD EARLIER BUT YOU FELT HE DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT. HE'S AS FAST AS THE RED RUSH AND ALMOST AS INVULNERABLE AS... ER... OMNI-MAN.

BUT NOT NEARLY AS EVIL.

HE CAN ALSO FLY... SOMETHING YOUR TEAM SORELY NEEDS. I THINK HE'LL MAKE A FINE ADDITION.

"FINE" BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD!

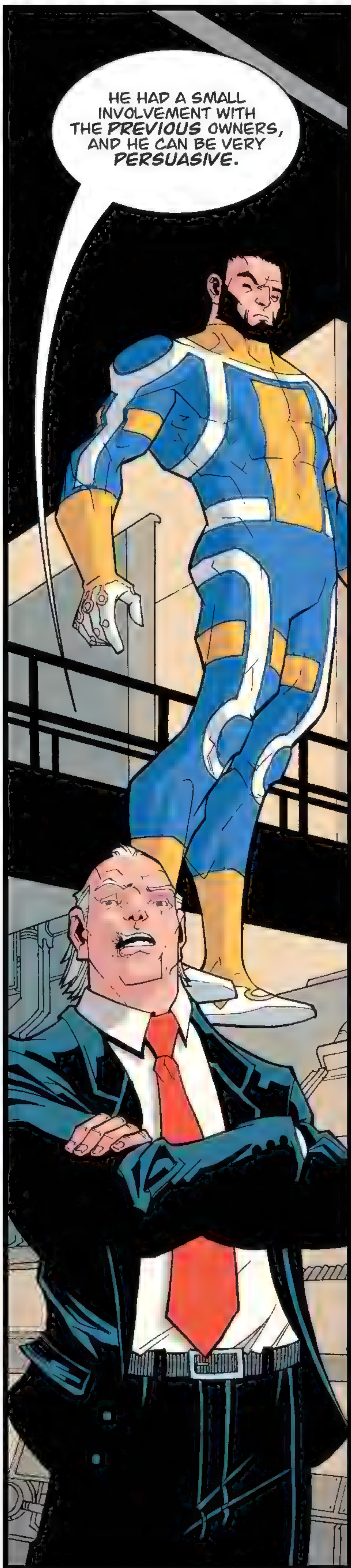


THAT COUPLED WITH YOUR PLACEMENT IN THE ORIGINAL GUARDIANS' BASE WITH THE ADDED RESOURCES IT BRINGS SHOULD IMPROVE THE OVERALL DYNAMIC OF THIS TEAM.

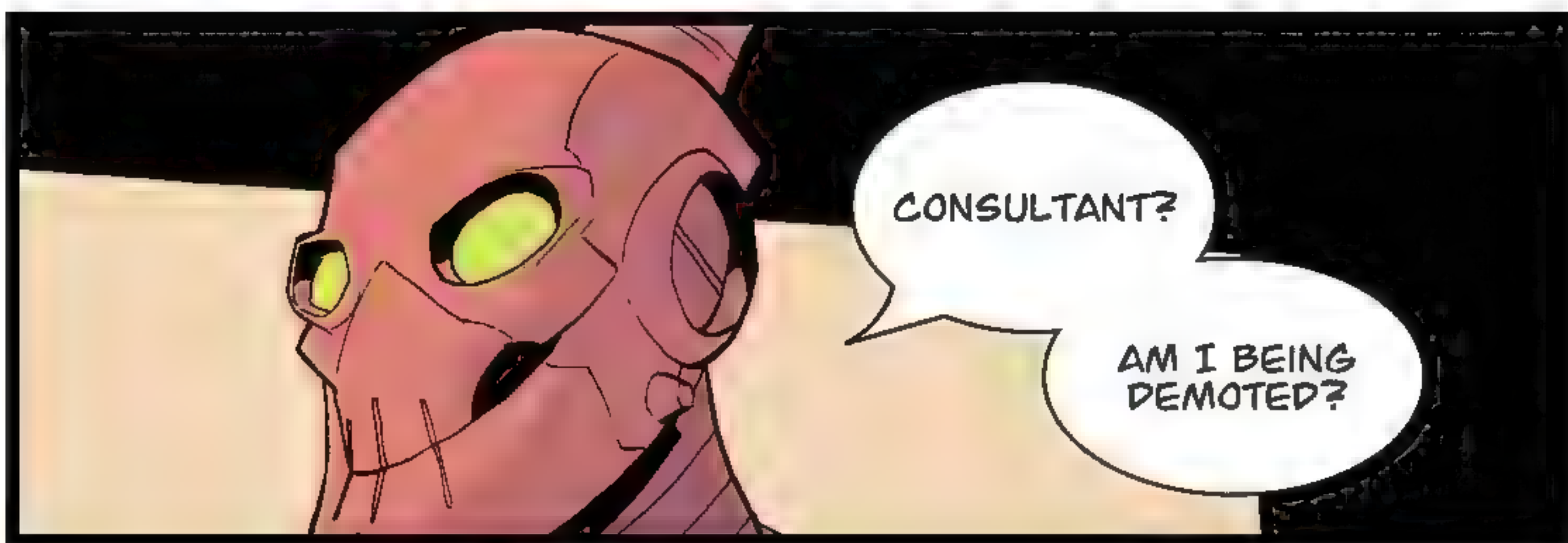
HOW DID WE SECURE THIS BASE? I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF DARKWING AND WAR WOMAN WOULD NOT ALLOW US TO USE IT.



FOR THAT YOU CAN THANK YOUR NEW CONSULTANT.

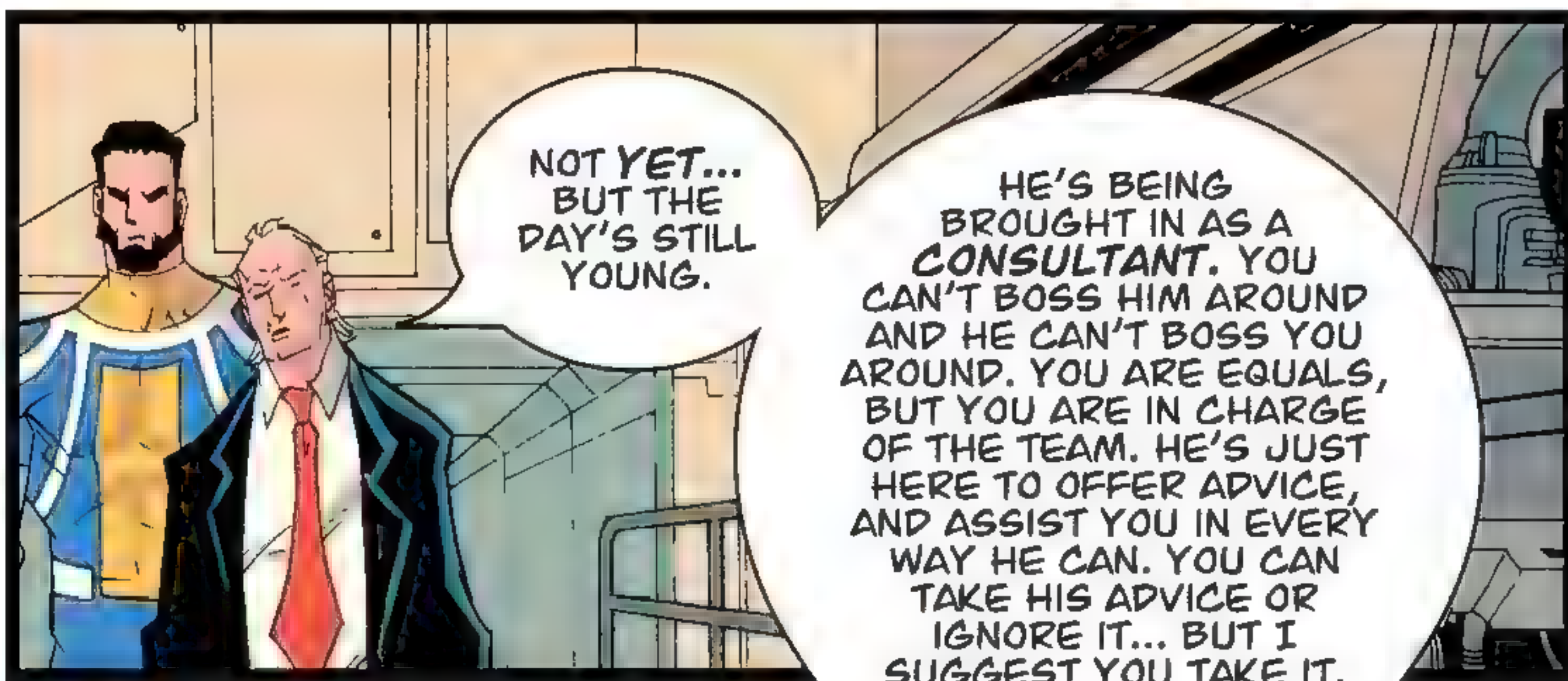


HE HAD A SMALL INVOLVEMENT WITH THE **PREVIOUS OWNERS**, AND HE CAN BE VERY **PERSUASIVE**.



CONSULTANT?

AM I BEING DEMOTED?



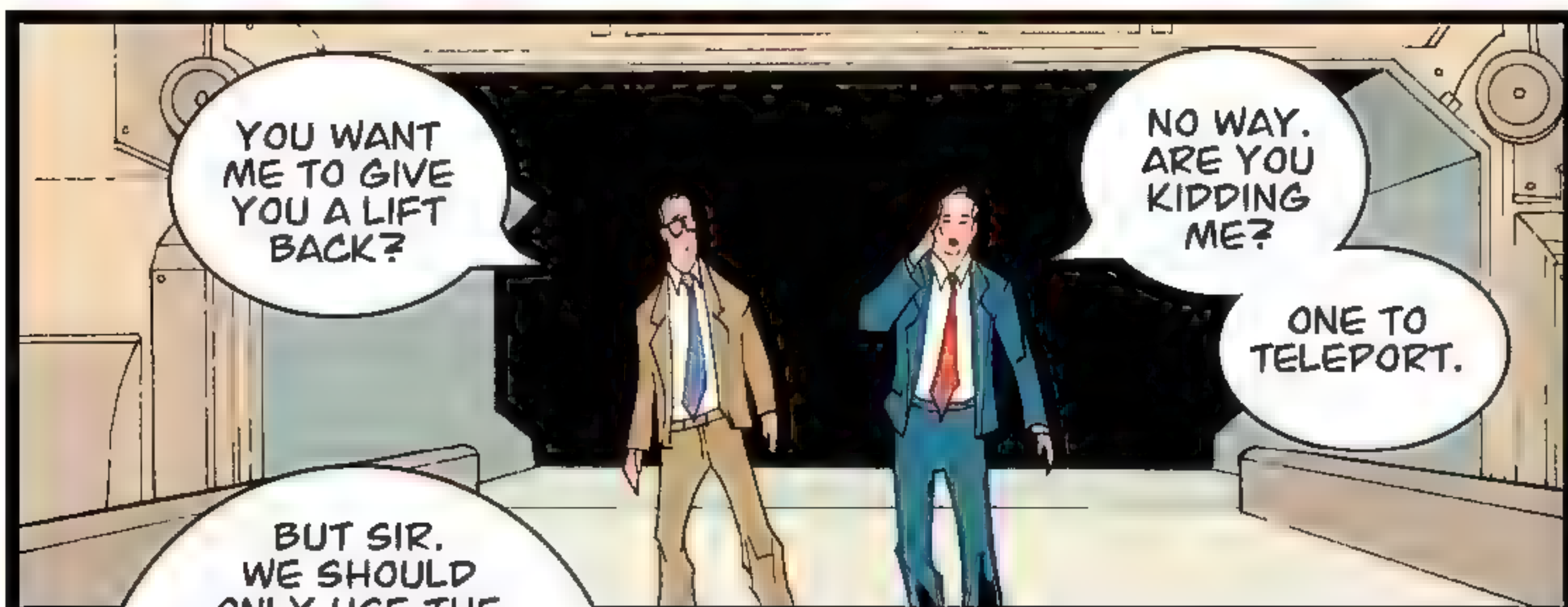
NOT YET... BUT THE DAY'S STILL YOUNG.

HE'S BEING BROUGHT IN AS A **CONSULTANT**. YOU CAN'T BOSS HIM AROUND AND HE CAN'T BOSS YOU AROUND. YOU ARE EQUALS, BUT YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF THE TEAM. HE'S JUST HERE TO OFFER ADVICE, AND ASSIST YOU IN EVERY WAY HE CAN. YOU CAN TAKE HIS ADVICE OR IGNORE IT... BUT I SUGGEST YOU TAKE IT.



I'LL LEAVE YOU GIRLS TO GET ACQUAINTED.

C'MON, DONALD.



YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU A LIFT BACK?

NO WAY. ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

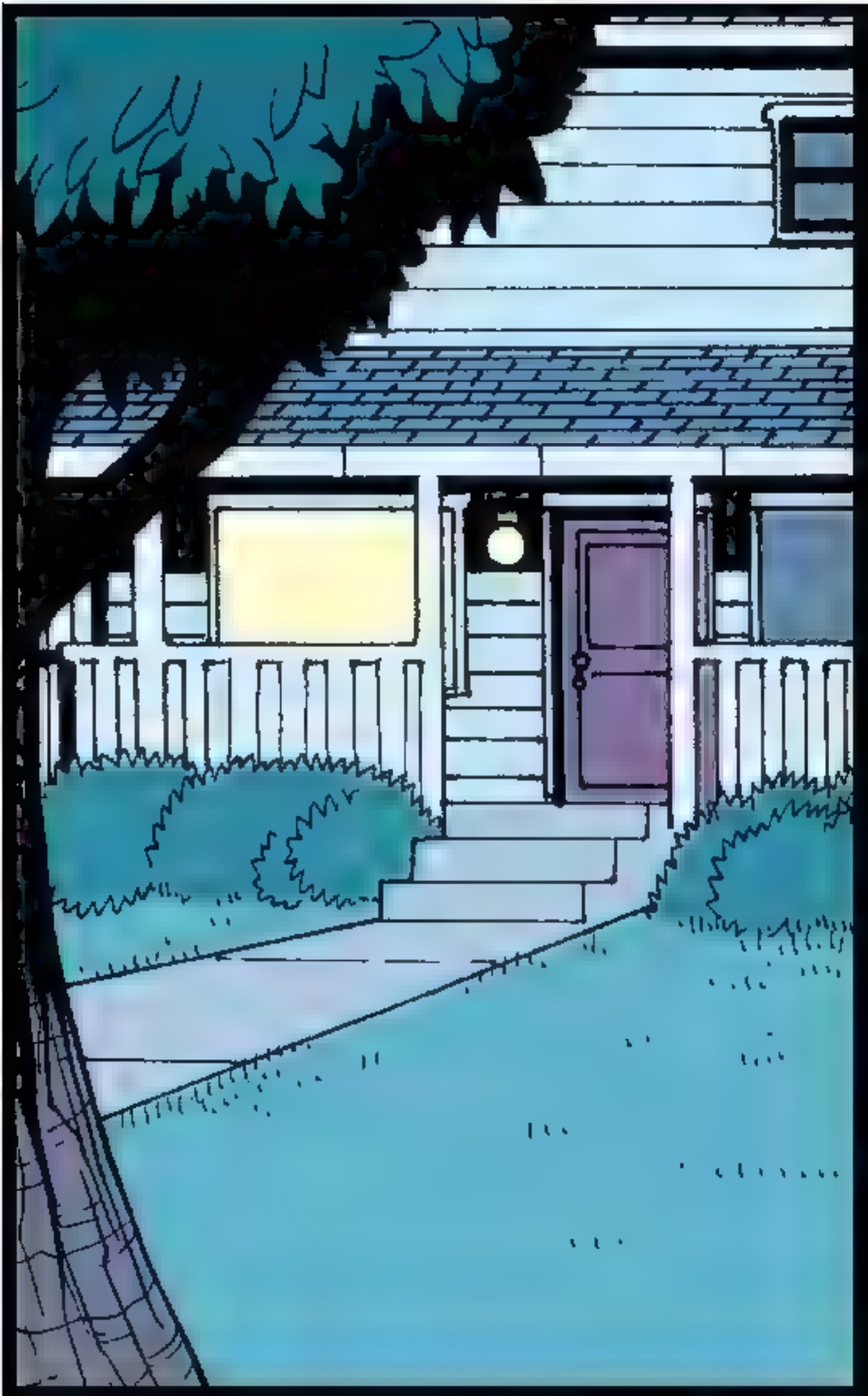
ONE TO TELEPORT.

BUT SIR, WE SHOULD ONLY USE THE TELEPORTER IN CASES OF **EXTREME EMERGENCY**. YOU REALIZE THE COST DON'T YOU? YOU'VE ALREADY USED IT **SIX TIMES** THIS WEEK.

I KNOW, DONALD. I KNOW.

I THINK I'M ADDICTED.







WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE

C/O FUNK-O-TRON

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PENVINCIPALS

Welcome to issue 14, the one we like to call “The Big One” we’ve been building up to this issue for quite a while and I hope you guys and gals like the results. If not, stick with us, because I swear, long time readers are going to love where we’re going with this.

First off, let me thank Frank Cho for turning in a KICK ASS cover for this issue. Frank and I have gotten to know each other over the last few months and the man is as nice as he is talented. His heart is as big as the boobs he draws on his women. Thanks Frank... I owe you one! Make sure you pick up Marvel Knights Spider-Man #5 and Frank’s Shanna the She-Devil series when it debuts... and Liberty Meadows from IMAGE COMICS!

I need to take the time to welcome aboard a new member of the Invincible creative team, our new letterer RUS WOOTEN. Rus and my pal Tony Moore were in an online art club together called Café DNA way back in the day. I met Rus at the Chicago con in 2000 where my first book Battle Pope debuted... so Rus and I go WAAAAY back. Rus now letters a slew of books for a company called Marvel Comics... you may have heard of it, for a company called Virtual Calligraphy, which is owned by former Savage Dragon letterer and guy whose style I’ve been ripping on lettering (along with some John Workman) this entire time. So things have come full circle in more than a few ways. Welcome aboard Rus.

In other news, I don’t know if it’s the Wizard article or the Eisner nomination or the fact that this book really kicks ass (wink nudge) but our sales have shot up drastically over the last few months. Our sales on the title has increased about 30% over the last three months and shows no sign of stopping. The volume 1 TPB which we had plenty of in stock around January has sold out and now gone into a second printing (which should be in stores now—it’s got a new cover, but is otherwise the same, so don’t feel like you need both versions). Things are going great here at Invincible central and I just wanted to let you readers know that this book is going to have a long healthy life at Image comics.

Oh, and my first issue of Captain America (#29) should be out by the time this issue is. I hope you guys will at least read it in the store. If you like this book... I’m sure you’ll like Cap. Scot Eaton, Drew Geraci, Rob Schwager (all three former Crossgeners) Randy Gentile and I are having a BLAST working on it.

And yes, Ryan and Bill did their usual EXCELLENT job on this issue, didn’t they?

Now for some letters!!

Dear PENvinciPALS,

what? huh? holy shit? wow? wtf? damn?

The only words that came out of my mouth when I read Invincible#12. That totally came out of left field and snuck up on me. Even by the cover I didn’t think Mark would get his butt kicked THAT bad—and then Nolan just up and leaving.

Ryan’s art is fantastic! He’s really growing with the book. Man, really. great issue. That’s why I love this book, but especially you Robert(wink wink nudge nudge).

Okay all gayness aside, questions.

1) Are we going to see more of Nolan? Maybe his return to Viltrum and his excuse? Maybe a full scale Viltrumite invasion of Earth?

2) This’ll probably get answered in issue#13 but is Nolan leaving and this revalation going to do a number on Debbie? Also, is Mark gonna have a new daddy?

3) How’s Mark going to afford college without his best selling book writing “dad” around anymore?

4) Mark’s not gonna pull a Nolan on us is he?

Well that’s all for now, keep up the good job. Take care.

Kirk-maniac/Invincible-O-Holic
— Mike Storniolo

Good to hear from you Mike. On to your questions.

1) Yeah... he’ll be back. Someday.

2) New daddy? Only time will tell. The rest should be answered last issue.

3) Heh. See issue 13.

4) We’ll see.

I liked the first eight issues of Invincible. I liked the Mark with his Peter Parkeresque awkwardness with girls, and his Ward and June home life interrupted periodically by an alarm beeping and a burst of super speed only to go back to semi- normalcy when the crisis was over.

“Neat” I thought, “Superboy as it should have been done, with Superboy being the son of Superman and having to deal with the normal problems of being a teenager as well as having a famous father.” Then Superman murdered the Justice League.

“Ok” I thought. “There are a lot of Justice League homages out there, and even if these were exceptionally cool we didn’t really need them. Obviously Omni Man is being mind controlled by the creatures from another universe and Invincible will have to help free him. Maybe Omni Man will be a little embarrassed at being saved by his son, maybe feel threatened.” So I kept reading. Some how I missed issue #9 but I figured I hadn’t missed too much after reading #10 and thought “Oh good, the whole mind control thing will come into the open, and it’s cool that Immortal is still alive.” so of course issue #11 blew my %^&#ing MIND!

This Is Great! I just finished with “The Big One” issue #12 and I can’t wait to see what’s next! You see I’ve always had a problem with Superman. Not just the goodie two shoes stuff, I liked the idea of an incredibly powerful person with small town values. No, what bothered me about Superman was that he was the strongest guy in the DC universe, so I never really felt like he was being challenged by any of the big strong guys he met throughout the issues, but now it’s clear, Superman should have been a villain. A strange visitor from another planet, he’s stronger, faster, and smarter than us, and he’s here to enslave us! It’s great! You’ve sparked my imagination in a way I remember from the first time I picked up a comic.

I see from issue #12 that Omni Man couldn’t bring himself to kill Mark, that like Darth Vader there is still some good inside him. I won’t mind if you eventually bring him back to the side of the angels, but I hope you wait at least a decade or two before you do it.

A Loyal Fan,
Ken Lindgren

Issue 12 was “the big one?” I’m confused... are you sure? Glad you like what we’re doing, Ken. You keep reading them—we’ll keep making them.

Penvincipals,

I’ve been with Invincible since the beginning and I look forward to every issue. The last scene in number twelve really sets this series up for a long run.

I read about thirty comics a week and I can honestly say that Invincible is one of the first I read when I pick it up from the local comic store here in Elk Grove, California. Major props to Kirkman, Ottley, and Crabtree. I’m buying the movie when it comes out!

Ashur Givargis

Movie? Do you know something I don’t?

Hi Invincible-makers –

Wow. Just read issue #12 and I have no clue where this whole story is going.

And I love it. The mystery of “how you are going to write your way out of this one”. The guilt of Genetics. The weight of an inevitable pre-ordained destiny.

And I hate it. The loss of that wonderful quirky superhero homelife. The loss of the comic-book lightness. The loss of the mentor “dad” relationship.

And yet, I am compelled to write and say I will be here every month to see what happens.

Please keep it up.

Thanks,
— Tony Hsieh

Thanks for sticking with it Tony. This book will ALWAYS be going through subtle changes. The “Status Quo” will always be evolving and changing as Mark grows up. This won’t be the last shake-up. Things will stay the same for a while though... it’s not going to be THAT crazy.

Dear PENvinciPALs,
Wow, Mark really got his ass handed to him. From the cover it looked like he did but who knows with covers nowadays. The best part of this story is now Mark has a main super villain in his father. Every hero needs an equally good villain.
Now the fun part comes next because as of right now it seems Mark cannot defeat his father on his own. I smell crossover. Well Image doesn’t seem to have many available characters but you could use all of your characters you have written (Capes, Super Patriot, Brit, etc.) and even bring in Savage Dragon, Firebreather and you could bring back Battle Pope also. Man, that sounds like a summer blockbuster to me. It could be the Image universe verses the Viltrums. You could go the easy way out and call it “Invasion” or something of the sort, who knows, either way I am looking forward to see how the story continues to unfold.
I kind of have this feeling Mark is going to come home to find his mother stuffed in the refrigerator just like Green lantern did a few years back, well it was his Girlfriend, not his mom, but nonetheless it sure is something that would make Mark snap. Hell, he could find his girlfriend in there to, who knows. Well before I get more carried away I shall thank you for another wonderful issue.

Thanks.
Nathan Taler

Dammit people... complain about something. I just can’t come up with witty responses to this stuff. I know we’re doing something wrong. Ask questions... gripe... SOMETHING. These letters are supposed to entertain OTHERS. I LOVE hearing people tell us we’re doing a good job... but tack on SOMETHING I can make a joke about.

Please.

Dear Penvincipals,

Damn, no Scott Kurtz covering letters. Get more guest editors in there, Robert. B. Clay Moore probably isn’t too busy. When did we last see Hawaiian Dick?

Things I liked in issue # 11:

1) Awesome cover. Omni-Man’s hand covered in blood. And it sure ain’t his.

2) The twist that Omni-Man is far from a noble protector of earth. As much as I enjoyed the healthy father-son relationship, you explore that in Tech Jacket and Walking Dead. I, for one, hope Omni-Man’s story is the truth and Mark has to deal with a father he cannot trust. This sets the book on a great path that I can’t wait to see explored more.

3) All the cameos. The Kresh from Tech Jacket, the Chronodile and Capes, Inc. guys, Brit and even Tony Moore preparing a hot dog and the lava men from Science Dog!

4) The colors. Bill Crabtree is knocking this one out of the park. He’s perfect for the book.

5) Hector Plasm. Nate is a great artist. Benito has some neato ideas.

Things I didn’t like:

I wish the supporting cast was more fleshed out. If you cut to subplots for a page or two with them and then came back to the main story between Nolan and Mark, I think it might have ratcheted up some tension.

Everyone’s a critic, I know.

Congratulations on the Eisner nomination,

Chris Piers

B. Clay Moore is too busy making sure Hawaiian Dick comes out THIS year. Besides... I LIKE doing the letters... most of the time. You guys are stuck with me. Plus... not many people are as funny as Scott Kurtz, so it’s not like it’d be good ALL the time.

1) Cory’s a genius.

2) It’s the truth. I’m not going back on that... what you saw was the real deal.

3) Magmanites! Sheesh. Some fan you are.

4) Amen, brother. Crabtree is... the bomb... yo.

5) Heh. I could take it or leave it. But Benito is a nice guy and I feel bad for Nate (have you SEEN the guy). If you people like them back-ups... make sure you get a copy of TALES FROM THE BULLY PULPIT in August. It’s swell... but not drawn by Nate. Graeme MacDonald and Ron Riley made it look pretty though.

Oh go write your OWN book. I’ll get around to fleshing people out. Don’t you worry.

Dear Robert, the Penvincipal,

Well, you did it. Twelve issues. One full year of Invincible stories. And it’s ramping up. Awesome cover by Cory Walker. We’ve barely seen Mark with so much as a scratch and there he is, just about dead on the cover. Back cover was nice too. White. I know a lot of your readers have been complaining about fingerprints on the black covers. I didn’t care but it’s nice that you responded to them. And the Eisner nomination mentioned on the back is pretty damn cool.

As for the issue itself, I liked it. Invincible really needed a challenge. So far he’s made it through the pages relatively unscathed. The tougher the opponent, the cooler Mark is when he wins. Or in this case, survives. That was quite the epic battle. I mean, there were innocent bystanders flying around everywhere. The death toll had to be in the thousands. I sure hope this is addressed in the future of the title. There’s a fine line between reality and fantasy and seeing buildings fall and trains destroyed is something we can all envision a little too easily these days.

I hope Mark dedicates himself to helping to rebuild and fix the damage he was involved in. That would truly be heroic. He took a step towards responsibility when he stood up against his own father because it was the right thing to do. I hope he follows through.

I also like that Mark beat him (temporarily) without physical power (that would have been a cop out) but by tugging on his father’s emotional strings. It’s amazing. Nolan can look at his own wife as nothing more than a pet and the whole planet as expendable but he does have affection for his son. That’s interesting. I can’t wait to read more about Mark’s family life. I mean, he might have more siblings for all we know. And his mother will probably take on a bigger role in his life now that she’s a single parent. I don’t see how Mark can keep his father’s true mission of conquering earth a secret from her since she knew all about Nolan’s abilities and extraterrestrial origins.

There are some great stories to flow out of this. Here’s to the next twelve.

Hugs,
Chris Piers

ARRGH! I usually get questions or SOMETHING out of you Piers! Dammit! It feels good to have 12 (or 14) issues of the book done and out... it kinda makes it seem legit. I just sent in the solicitation for issue 18 and I’m thinking “wow... issue 25 is just around the corner.” I’m so happy this book made it. Now I just need to bring back Tech Jacket.

Dear PENvinciPals,

I have to say that Invincible is one of my favorite books to read from the Image group. It great to see someone take a stab at a Superhero family. That was until I read issue 11.

I was shock to see the way you took a turn into left field. Congratulations! It’s been a long time since I have seen a good drastic change in a story arch. Once again, congratulations.

Keep up the award nominating work and as long as it’s good I’ll keep reading

D.Muse

Wow... people seem to be into this turn around. I don’t know why I was worried that some of you out there would hate this

change. This is pretty cool.

Robert,

Just wanted to drop you a line to tell you how much I've been enjoying Invincible and get a chance to introduce myself.

Invincible has been a consistently enjoyable read. Congrats on your Eisner nomination.

I'm working on more WildGuard and shaking a couple other irons in the fire. I'm looking to get some booth space at the Image booth this year, so I'm sure we'll have a chance to meet in person. If you know of any other fellow Image creators looking for a booth mate, let me know!

That's about it.
Take care,
Todd

Booth space? You must mean for the San Diego comic-con, right? Why... I'll be there, and now I know that YOU'LL be there too! KICK-ASS! Folks, if you want to come by the Image section, Todd, Scott Kurtz, Me, and I'm sure a ton of others (maybe even Frank Cho) will be there in San Diego. Come on by!

Todd, it's great to hear from you. I've been a big fan of your work since the New Men days and I absolutely LOVED Wildguard. Take the plunge man... do it as a regular series!!

Hey Robert,
I just gotta say how much I'm enjoying this book as well as The Walking Dead...I got my friend Chris to check out The Walking Dead and he enjoyed it as well. Your great comics have forced me to inform others of their greatness. I'm still trying to get my friend Seth to read this book, so if you print this, please yell at him to pick this damn thing up! Also, Ryan's doing a great job on art...there isn't anything I can find wrong with this book, so keep up the good work.

Rambling on,
Pauly DeKams

P.S. I dare you to include a ridiculous monkey scene in one of your books...no, wait...double dare...seriously...I'll triple dog dare you if I don't see one in the next few months...I mean it...

Monkey in next issue. PROMISE. Look for it.

yo! robert,dude! your comic rules! do me a huge favor and tell alex (the dude who owns the comic shop I go to) ta'order more copies of Invincible!!! so he doesn't ask me to give up my copy to some newbie! I've been there since the start and now there are so many folks who want in and i'm sorry, am i selfish if I wont give up a copy of invincible 9, so some dude who read good things about your comic on the net and now wants to check it out can jump on board! sure al tell's me "but i'll get more next week" but i can't wait a week!!! i can't even wait a month for a new issue—I got issues!!! anyway just don't go missing again for a few months! oh yeah why isn't mark's name vince?

ROB STEAL

Alex, Dude who owns the comic shop Rob goes to... ORDER MORE DAMN ISSUES OF THIS COMIC. The poor guy can't wait a week while you wait for a reorder. C'mon, man!

Mark's name isn't Vince because that would be retarded. If there's ever a movie... his name will be N. Vince Ible, or I'm not signing off on it... it's just that simple.

Guys,

Damn, that rocked.

As much as the main focus of the real history of Omni-Man floored me, it was the subtle additions throughout that made this really stick for me. Things like the Immortals wife being an eighty-year-old woman, and Brit and Omni-Man teaming up, those tiny little things that can so easily be overlooked, but add real depth to the story overall, are what make this stand out for me.

You folks remain Class-A acts in this business. Keep it up! Thanks.

Invincible 12

Kirkman & co.:

There's good, and there's leave your beaten son in the frozen wilderness to die good. That latter kind of good never existed before now, you invented it. Congratulations!

My comic store guy was about to stop reading this since he'd missed issue 10 before it sold out, and he didn't want to miss a step. I loaned him my copy so he could stick with it, and were both very happy that he's going to keep reading. This never fails to deliver, and not only did this one deliver on the action, it also sealed up some questions I had from last issue. I wondered why, if Viltrumites lived so long, Omni-Man couldn't just wait until his wife had died

before slowly adjusting Marks attitudes about humanity, but here we got to see how paranoid he was about losing his focus, and how he had to regain his focus ASAP. Great job, Robert.

And Ryan and Bill deserve a week at the spa for what they pulled off here. The splash of all of the landings, the sequence where Omni-Man punches into a double charge, all of that was killer.

I'm here for next issue, and all the issues that follow. Later!

Sincerely,
Ryan Walsh

See Chris... Mike... THIS is how you write a letter for two issues back to back since you forgot to write a letter last month. Great job, Ryan, it's good to hear from you.

Dear Kirkman,

I was so busy with Walking Dead, I missed this book somehow! There it was, issue eleven, just sitting there one day. Saw your name and knew I had to get it. Of all the issues so far, I had to read this one first! Kinda sorta blew all the others, but they were still enjoyable. Loved the Day of the Dead advertisement in issue nine! Arguably the best zombie story ever. You keep talking zombies and I'll keep listening. One question... what's the idea or plan behind this book? It is obviously humorous, but is this humor key in the sense that the book is some kind of farce or satire to kind of poke fun at superhero books? Or is it meant to be funny in the Buffy sense where the comedy sort of acts in spite of the gravity of everything to add an extra level of absurdity? Did that even make sense? What I'm trying to say is I want you to be able to say something more interesting than just, "Thanks Chris!" My letter to you in Walking was kinda lame, but thanks for printing it!

Love your work. Can't wait until you write Capt. Am! Oh and good art Ryan!

Sincerely,
Chris Pitts

Yeah... that letter the TWD WAS lame. You know what else is lame? Being so LAZY you have to abbreviate Captain America? Jeez, man.

This book is NOT a comedy... but funny stuff happens. It's not a drama... but dramatic stuff happens. It's all about the balance. It's CERTAINLY not meant to poke fun at superheroes—it celebrates them. This book is what I think superhero books SHOULD be like... basically, like Savage Dragon, I mean—let's be real here, you've GOT to see the influence by now.

Dear Invinci-Gang,

I just wanted to say thank you for putting out a quality title like INVINCIBLE. I have to admit to being a late-comer, picking up one of the TPBs at a local store and reading through it like a hot knife through butter. I loved it so much I had to pick up both of the TPBs and also hunted down every issue since at my local comic shop. It's an amazing feat that you've accomplished.

As a recently turned thirty-something who has collected and read comics for over 20 years...I've found myself reading fewer and fewer titles over the years because the books today don't interest me the way they did when I was a kid. Most of the characters I've loved aren't appealing anymore. They've been tied up in one inane crossover after another. They've been killed, crippled, maimed, etc. for the sake of sales and "media buzz" and then rebooted all wrapped up in variant chromium covers. They've had flashy hot artists but stories that weren't worthy of printing on a roll of Charmin. They've had great stories with art so dark/twisted/confusing that I just can't look at the pages anymore. They've been... incomplete and unsatisfying.

While I have never stopped following the industry, its rare that I find a title that I get excited to read and anticipate the next issue as soon as I've finished the one in my hands. Congratulations, because INVINCIBLE is one of those titles. It's the top of my reading list and it is well-deserved. The writing is amazing and interesting...the art is crisp and clean...INVINCIBLE is truly the best book that I buy right now.

I look forward to the next story.

Dennis Tucker
West Springfield, MA

p.s. — Any hope for a hardcover collecting the first 12 issues? If any titles deserves the royal treatment its INVINCIBLE!

I'd like to do a hardcover collecting issues 1-13 eventually, but it's probably at least a year off. The book needs to be a little more popular to sustain that. I'm confident it'll happen eventually, though.

Whew.

Busy here. I just finally got to crack open issue 11.

First off. Yeah, I was wondering if this was going to be a fairly episodic book... or if at some point you were going to launch into a larger mythology/storyline.

Well. I think you answered my question. Cool. :)

And on a second note... Thanks for reprinting the pinup. I was thinking that just a little disclaimer would be good enough, but look-it... you posted the whole thing again with my credits.

You know what?

You ARE a nice guy.

And what do you know. I hadn't been able to make it to the comic book store for so long that I got issue 12 at the same time as issue 11. So I can read on without that cliffhanger hanging over my head for a month. Woohoo!

Keep up the good work, guys!
Daniel Fu

I thought the only real way to make up for the mis-credit was to run the pin-up again. It's only fair that you have one issue that has your name and your art printed. I still feel horrible for doing that. Sorry again.

Good pin-up by the way. I liked it.

Hey! I just read issues 10, 11, and 12 back to back and I'm pretty blown away by this turn of events. I was shocked at the twist of fate you've written into the storyline- and felt I had to congratulate you for having the balls to put something like that into what has essentially been a coming-of-age tale so far. It's gonna be a pretty big storyline to wrap in a convincing way-without cheating the fans or completely losing the established tone of the book. I've been highly impressed with your natural writing style up to this point, but these three issues were amazing.

Previous to these issues, I had been assuming that INVINCIBLE would go down as another tale in the vein of spider-man's early years. You know- post-teen coming to terms with not only entering the world and trying to have a life, but also struggling with the responsibilities of his abilities. When compared with Marvel's modern re-telling of spider-man's early years, I feel that INVINCIBLE completely blows it out of the water (no-offence to marvel or any of the ultimate creators and artists). Which leads me to the point of this email- where's all the invincible hype? Why haven't someone like WIZARD magazine totally jumped on the 'Kirkman bandwagon' yet? Did you do something to totally piss them off? I guess now that they're too soft to take the piss out of anything they don't like they're only avenue of criticism is to ignore certain titles, creators, and publishers. So what's up? I'm getting tired of having to talk this book up to friends that should be reading it. Maybe it's time the 'industry mags' took it up instead?

Keep up the good work Robert, and you too Ryan- you're style's so clean. Issues 11, and 12 were really fucking impressive. Especially issue 12. Bill too, actually. It's pretty hard to get tones that work like that in such big clean fields sometimes. The colour of the last half of issue 12 was probably the coolest work I think I've ever seen. Again I ask you, why aren't you three, and your collaborative effort, getting the hype you deserve?

Thanks for all your hard work guys. I think you're doing an amazing job of not only rebuilding and re-tooling the super-hero genre, but of also bridging the gap between the comics we all read as kids- and the comics we want as adults.

Aaron Farrugia.

Wizard named Invincible the "Book of the Month" in their March issue and has mentioned it at least once in every issue after that. We're getting the love, sales are going up and we've really got nothing to complain about. Thanks for the concern, though. Now if only we could get Wizard to cover the OTHER great titles Image is publishing.

Robert Kirkman and Penvincipals,

A year ago this month I was returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and in eager anticipation preparing for Wizard World Chicago. I went down the list of guests to attend and any name and title that I had a book for I packed up regardless if I knew who they were or not. Robert Kirkman and Invincible was one such match I did not recognize. You see during the deployment my brother was kind enough to keep my subscription box empty and pick up any "hot" books he thought might interest me. Luckily for me one of those "hot" books was Invincible. I think at the time of the show up to issue number five had come out. Unfortunately for me I had only read number one as I was trying to catch up on my regular reading list. I wish now that I would have read all five issues though so I could have avoided what I think is perhaps one of the lamest

moment of my life. I was just wondering around aimlessly one day during the show and I saw your table and I remembered I had packed Invincible number one. So I grabbed my copy out of my bag and walked up to the table and asked you to sign it. Now I regard this as one of the lamest moments of my life because all I could do was ask you to sign it and say thanks. Having not read past issue one I could not express to you like a true fanboy how awesome this book is. So you probably thought I was just some punk ass who wanted your herby so he could go sell it on E-bay. Well I just want to let you know I did not. It hangs on my wall next to some other books and sketches, and every issue of Invincible that comes out it gains more worth to me. Although I am not familiar with your other work (yet) I think you are by far the most underrated writer in the business right now. I don't think I have ever hated a writer so much for leaving me hanging in anticipation for the next issue as much as I hate you. Your pacing is outstanding. Your characterization is awesome too. Kudos to! Walker and Ottely for their great art it is definitely a nice bonus, but I think your writing could sell this book no matter who did the pencils. Well I am sure at this point I am saying what has already been said, but someday I hope to redress my pain by embellishing you with this fan-boy praise in person. Until then keep up the good work.

Garrett Kemp

Man... my signature ain't worth JACK on Ebay... trust me. All is forgiven. I'll be in Chicago again this year if you want to give it another shot.

Hey Kirkman:

Where's the love, man? You get a couple Eisner nominations and suddenly you don't have time for Khepri.com? You get a couple Marvel projects and you're all, "Brian? Brian Scot Who?" Man, I've been pimping your swag since Battle Pope... BATTLE POPE... and now you play like you don't know me? Maybe all those things Cory said about you are true. Maybe I should just move on... sell some Brian Wood books. THAT guy knows how to show Khepri.com the love...

Brian Scot Johnson
brian@khepri.com

NO! Don't sell any Brian Wood books! ANYTHING but THAT!!!! Unless it's Demo... I REALLY enjoy that book.

I'm still out there pimping you on message boards! So I've forgotten to mention you in the letters columns, NOBODY reads these things. Watch.

If you're reading this send me an email with the words "banana split" in the subject. I bet I don't get TEN emails. More on this next month.

Anyway... Brian is a GREAT retailer. He's online, and he's the fella I get my comics form every week. I have them delivered to my doorstep EVERY Saturday (or Monday recently... he's getting lazy). He also sells ALL my back stock. Looking for Battle Pope? He's got it. Tech Jacket? Got that too. Missing an issue of Invincible? He's got that also. He's got it ALL—and he's at www.khepri.com. Give this fella some business. He also sells TPBs like they're going out of style... browse the site. You'll be glad you did.

And with that... I'm OUT. Hope you enjoyed reading my ramblings. Be back here next month for some sweet underwater action! It's going to be a hoot. If you get bored in the meantime you can run out and buy.

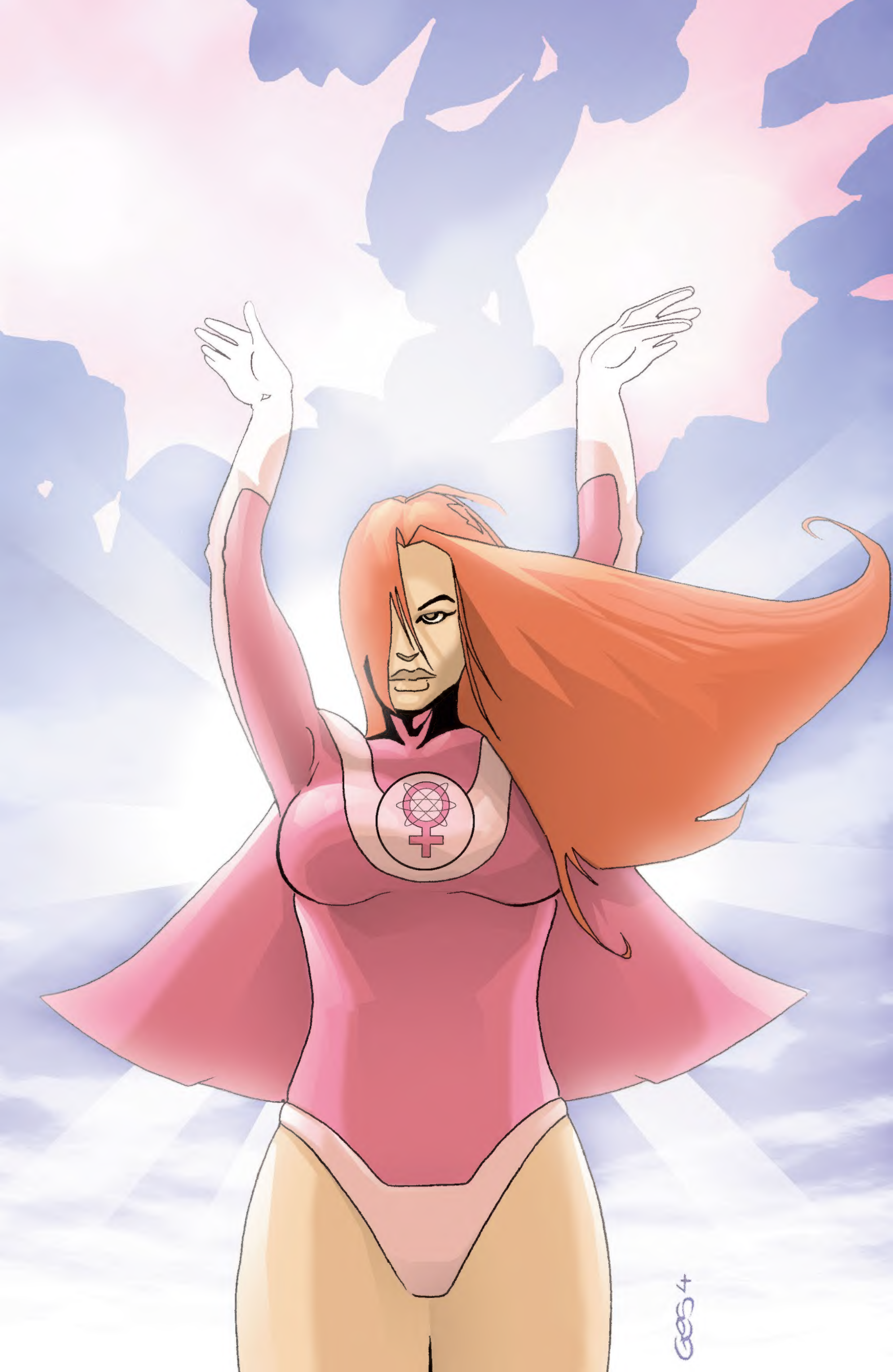
**SuperPatriot: War on Terror
Captain America
Savage Dragon: God War
Brit: Red White Black and Blue
Tales of the Realm
The Walking Dead**

All written by me. If you like this book... you'll probably like those. Give them a shot!

See you next month!

-Robert

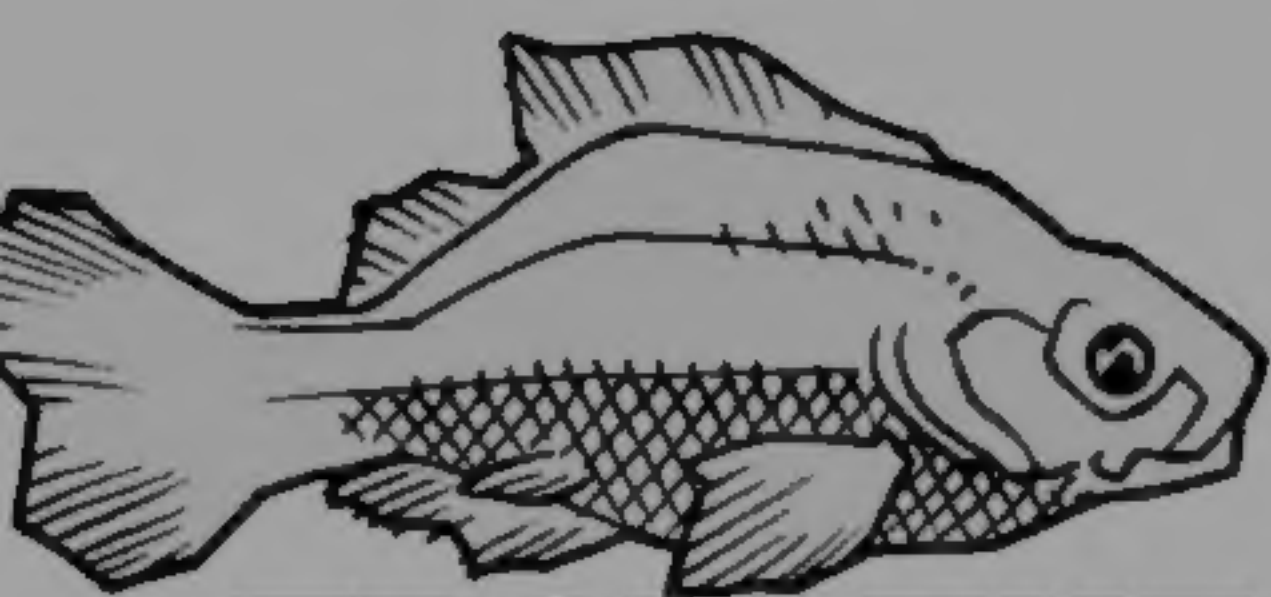
This month's pin-ups by:
1. George T. Singley
2. Joe Martino, Dash Martin and Austin Janowsky
Thanks, guys!!





INVINCIBLE

#15



**FROM THE
WRITER OF
CAPTAIN
AMERICA!**

**WRITTEN BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN**

**ART BY
RYAN OTTLEY**

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